AMAR CHITRA KATHA

THE FEARLESS BOY

BUDDHIST TALES, THE PATH TO HAPPINESS

Vol 710 | Rs 35

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Script
Luis M Fernandes

Illustrations
Souren Roy

Editor
Anant Pai

Cover illustration by: Pratap Mulick

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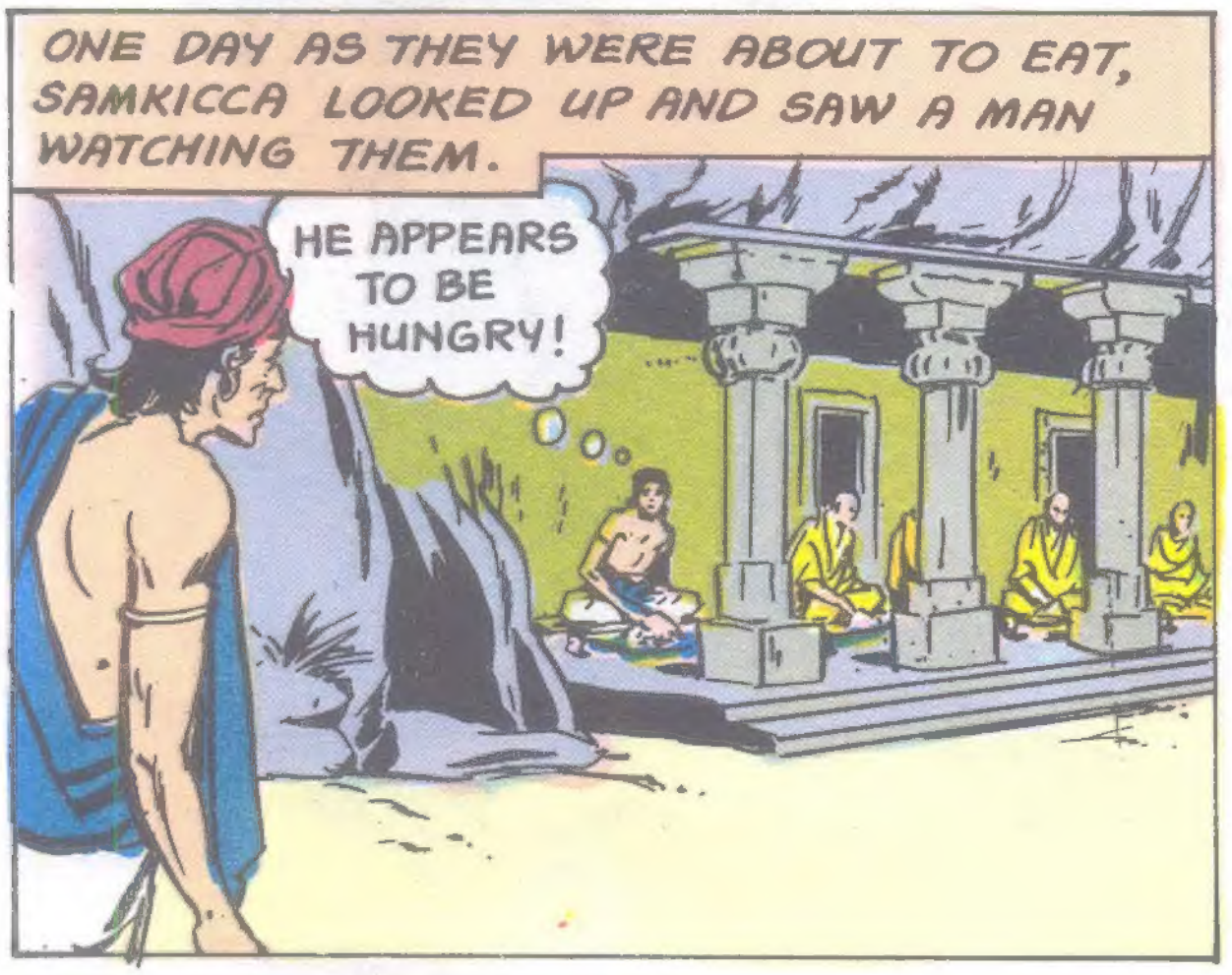
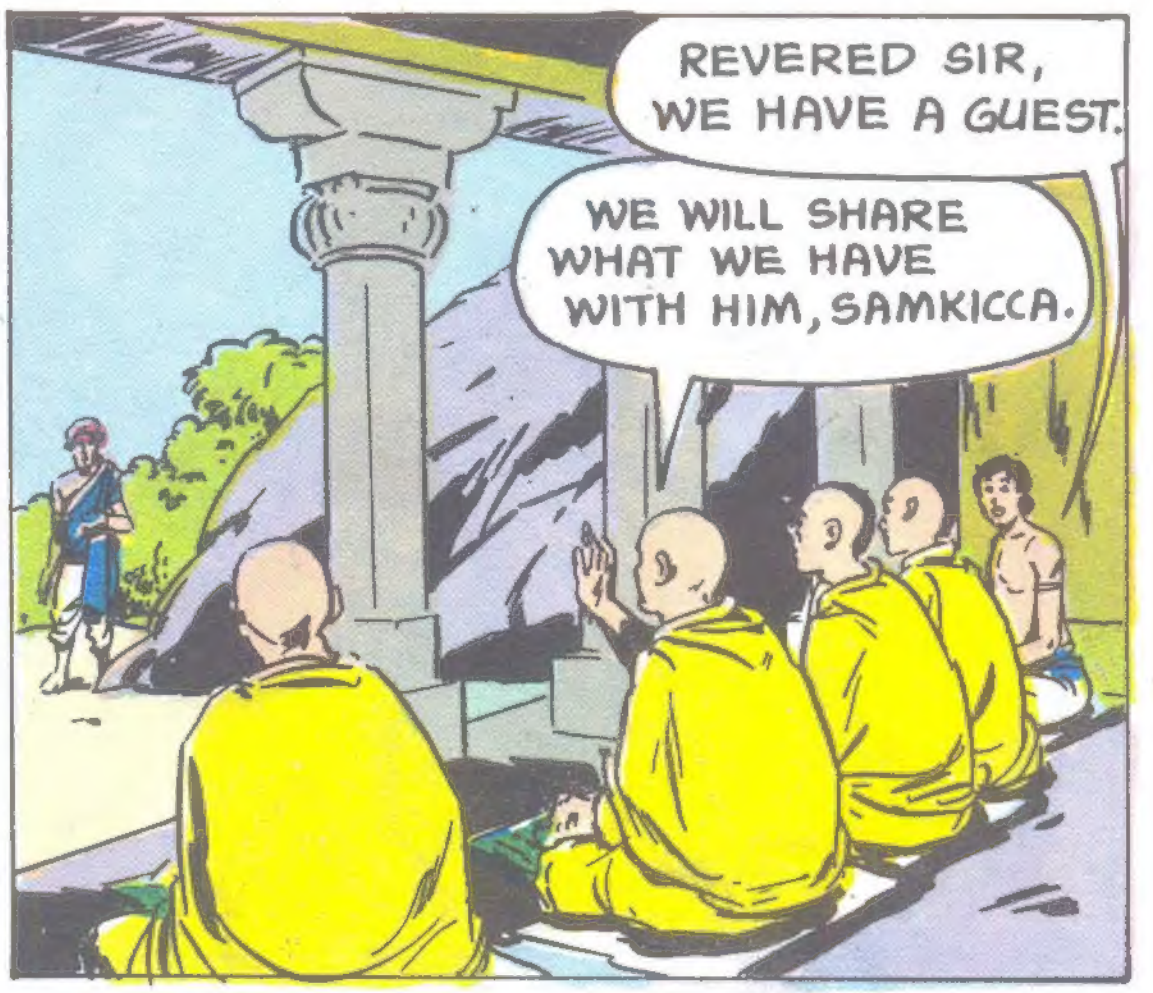
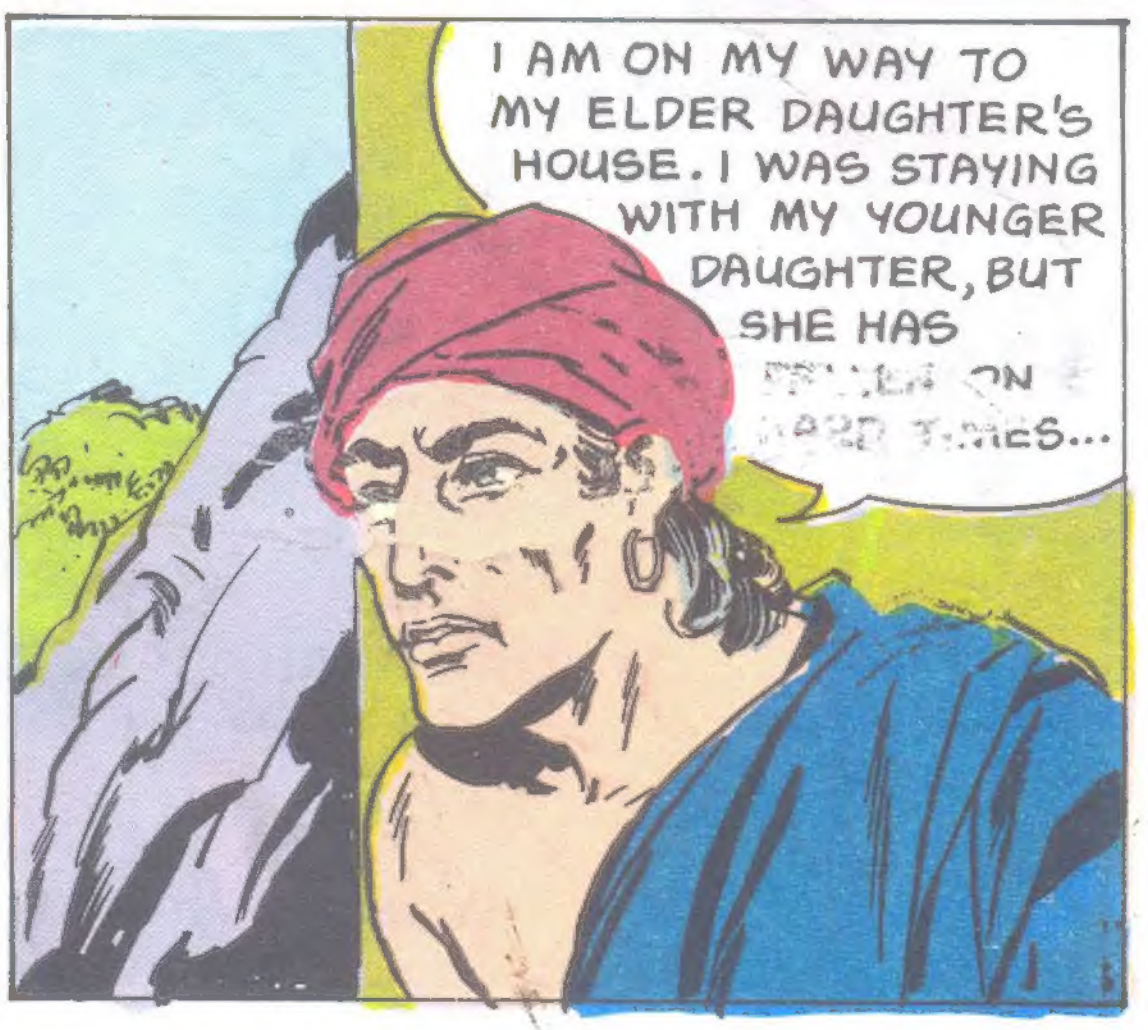
THE FEARLESS BOY

SAMKICCA WAS A NOVICE WHO LIVED WITH A COMMUNITY OF MONKS. THEY USED TO BEG FOR FOOD...

... AND THEN EAT IT AT THE MONASTERY.

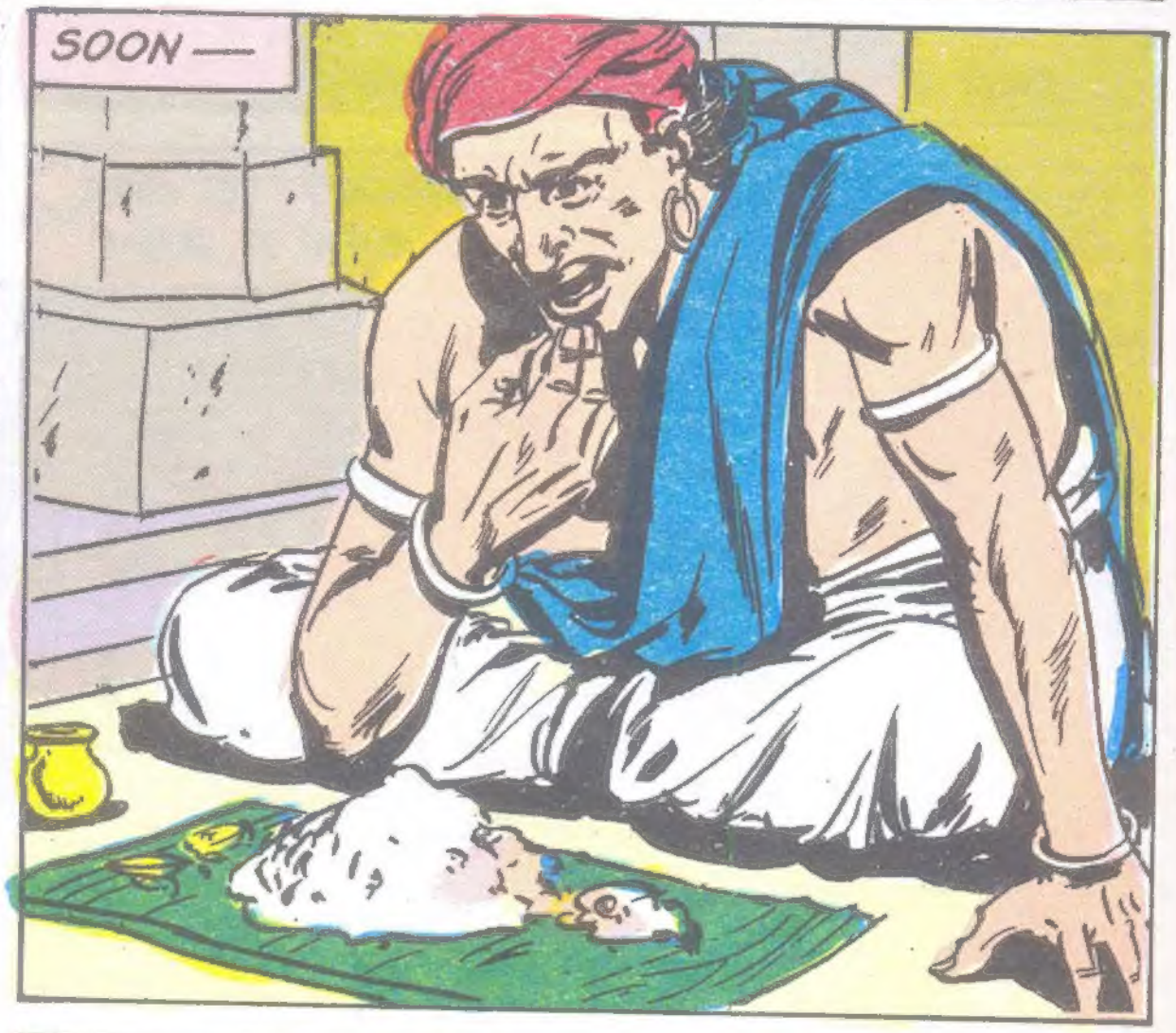




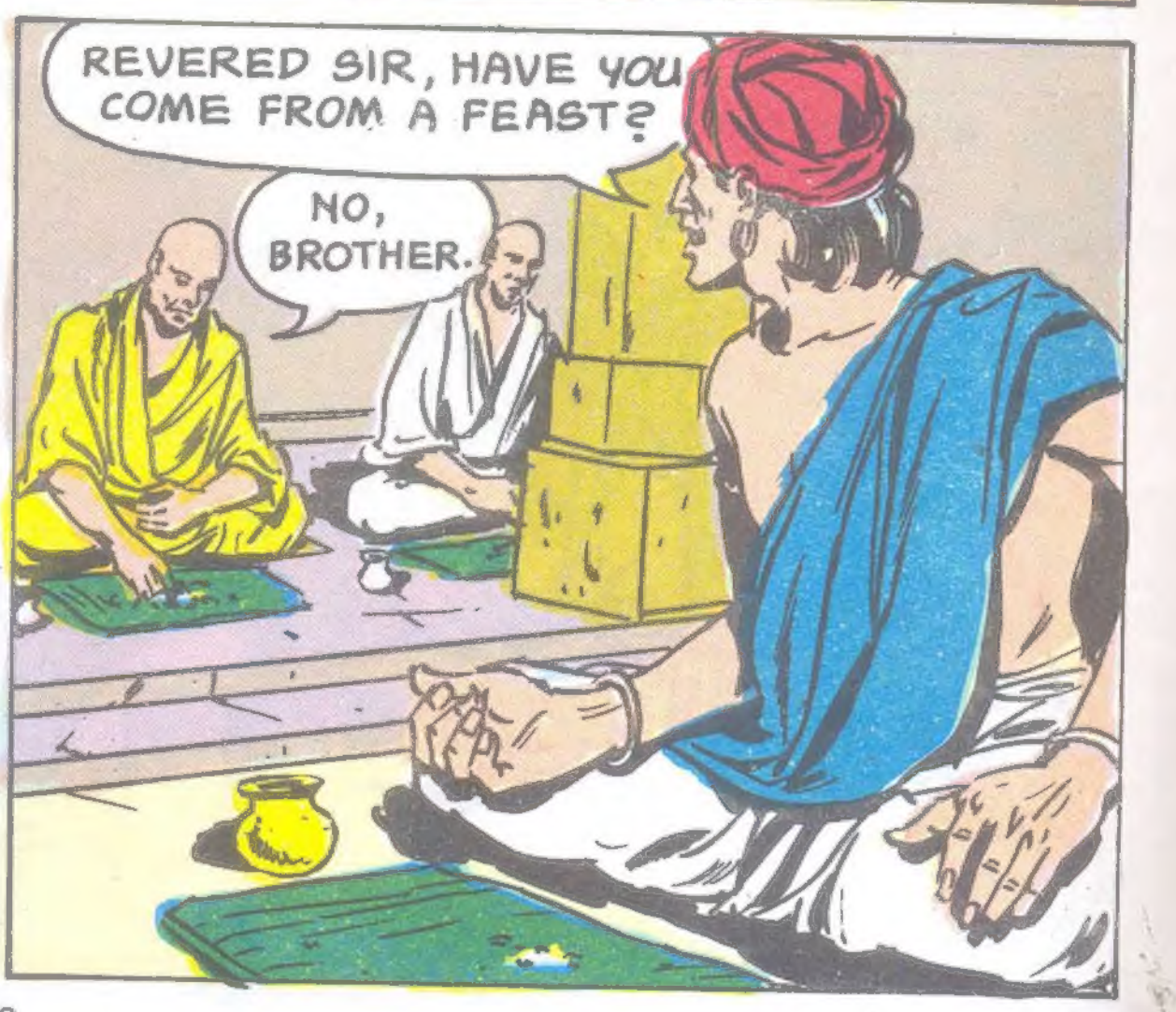


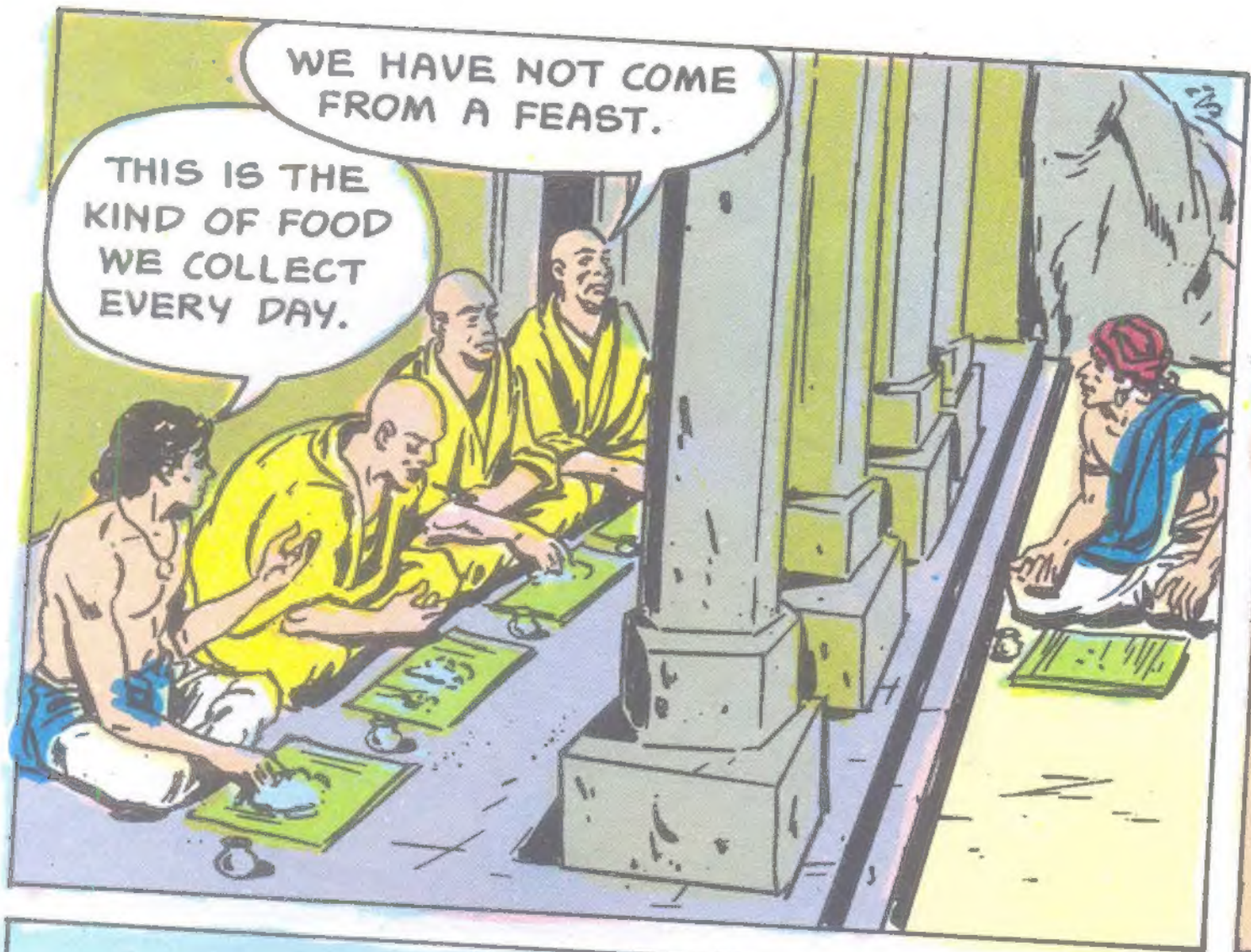
... AND I HAD TO LEAVE.
YOU APPEAR TO BE HUNGRY. EAT WITH US.

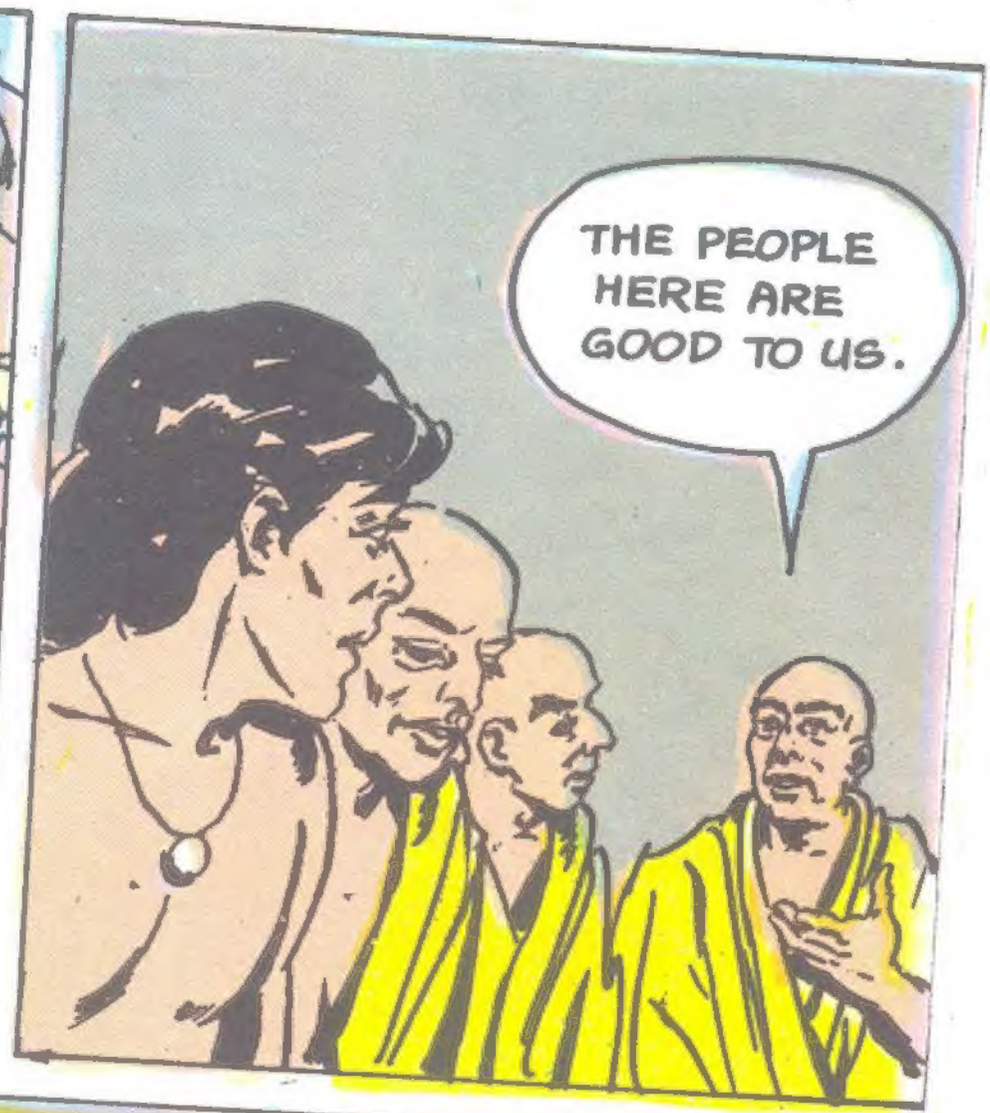
GO GET A LEAF AND EACH OF US WILL GIVE YOU A PORTION OF RICE.


SOON —

AH, THAT WAS A GOOD MEAL!

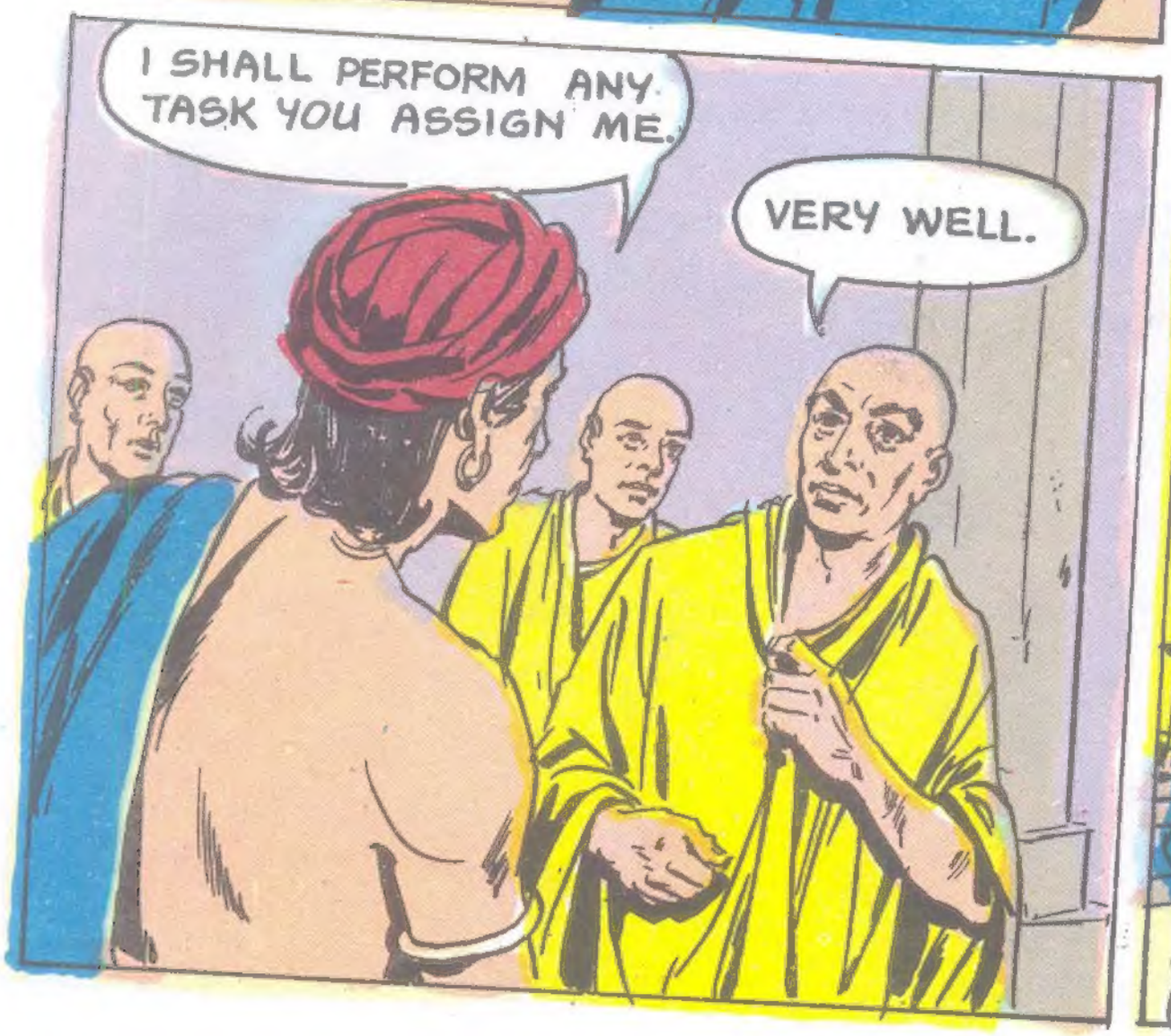

REVERED SIR, HAVE YOU COME FROM A FEAST?
NO, BROTHER.


WE HAVE NOT COME FROM A FEAST.
THIS IS THE KIND OF FOOD WE COLLECT EVERY DAY.

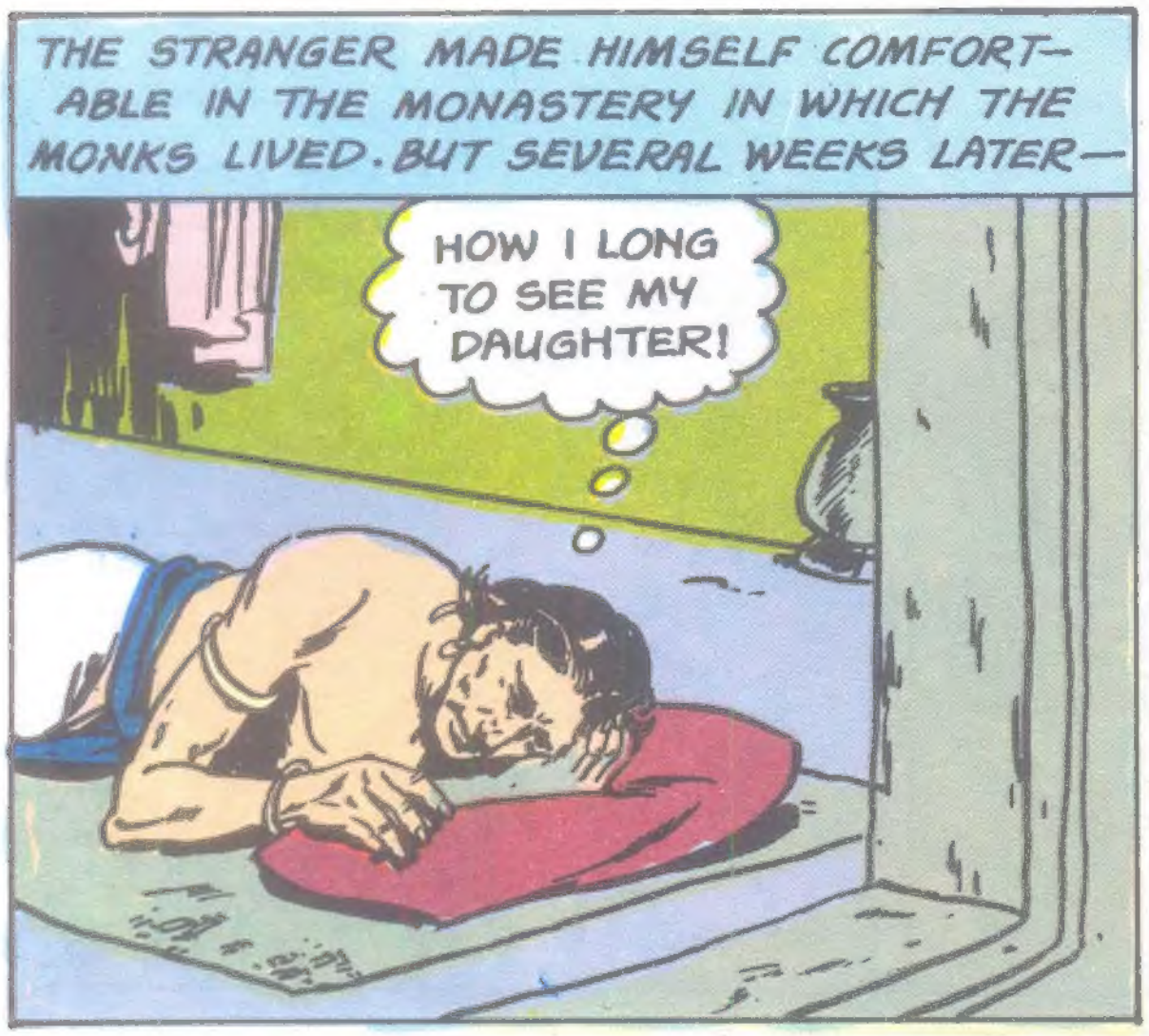

THE PEOPLE HERE ARE GOOD TO US.

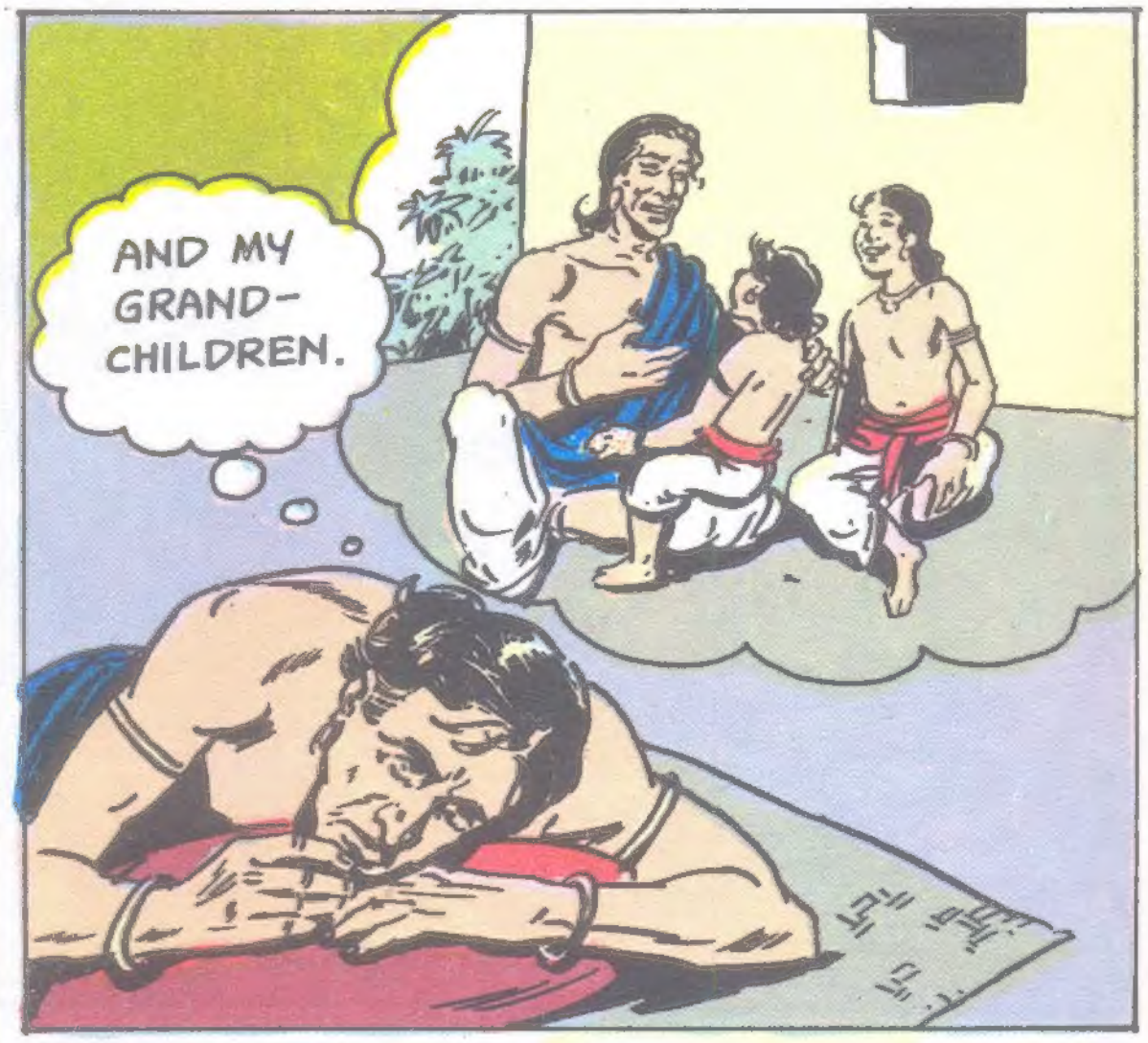
I COULD NEVER HOPE TO GET FOOD LIKE THIS EVEN IF I WORKED FROM DAWN TO DUSK.

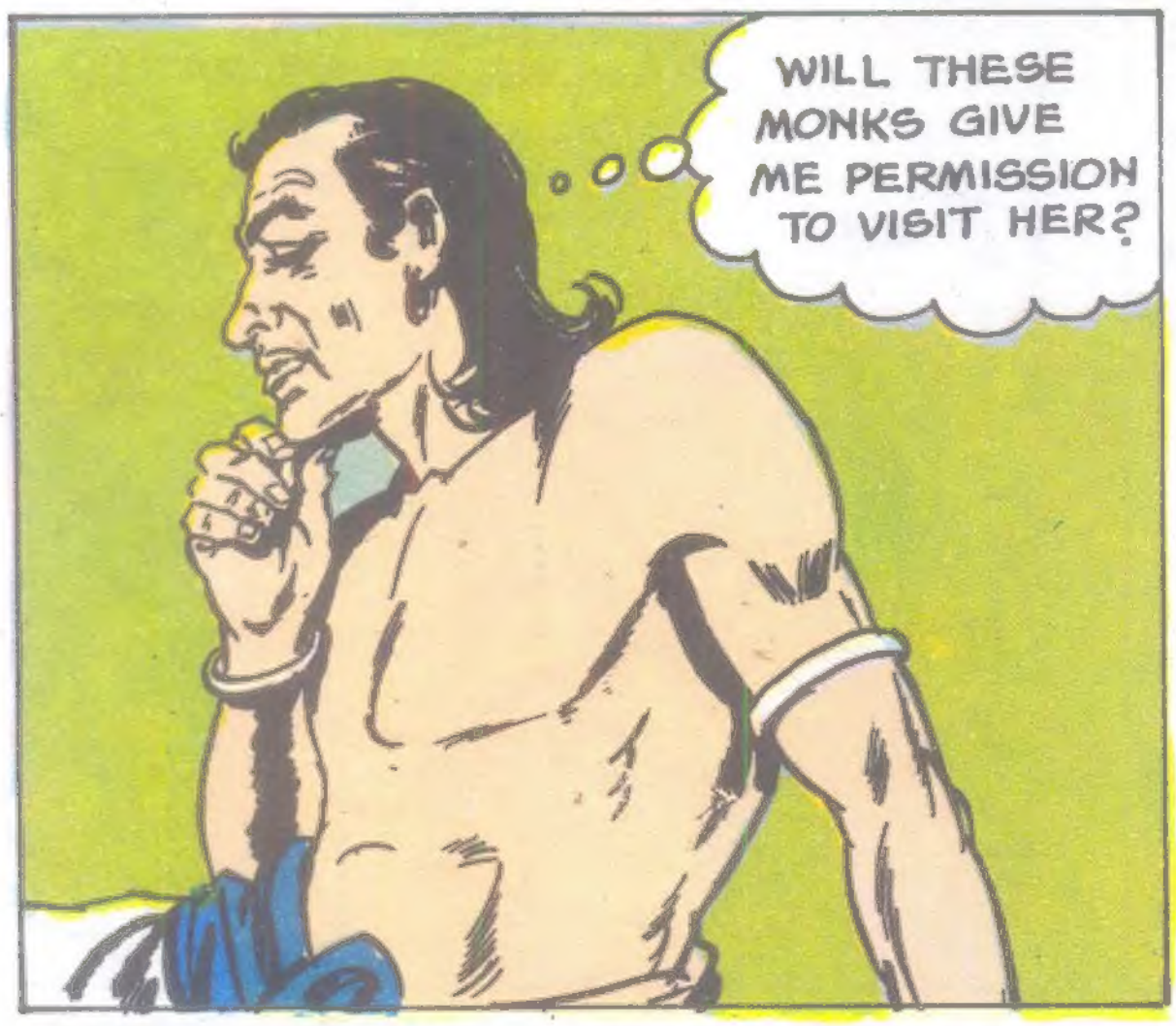
REVERED SIR, I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE WITH YOU.


I SHALL PERFORM ANY TASK YOU ASSIGN ME.
VERY WELL.

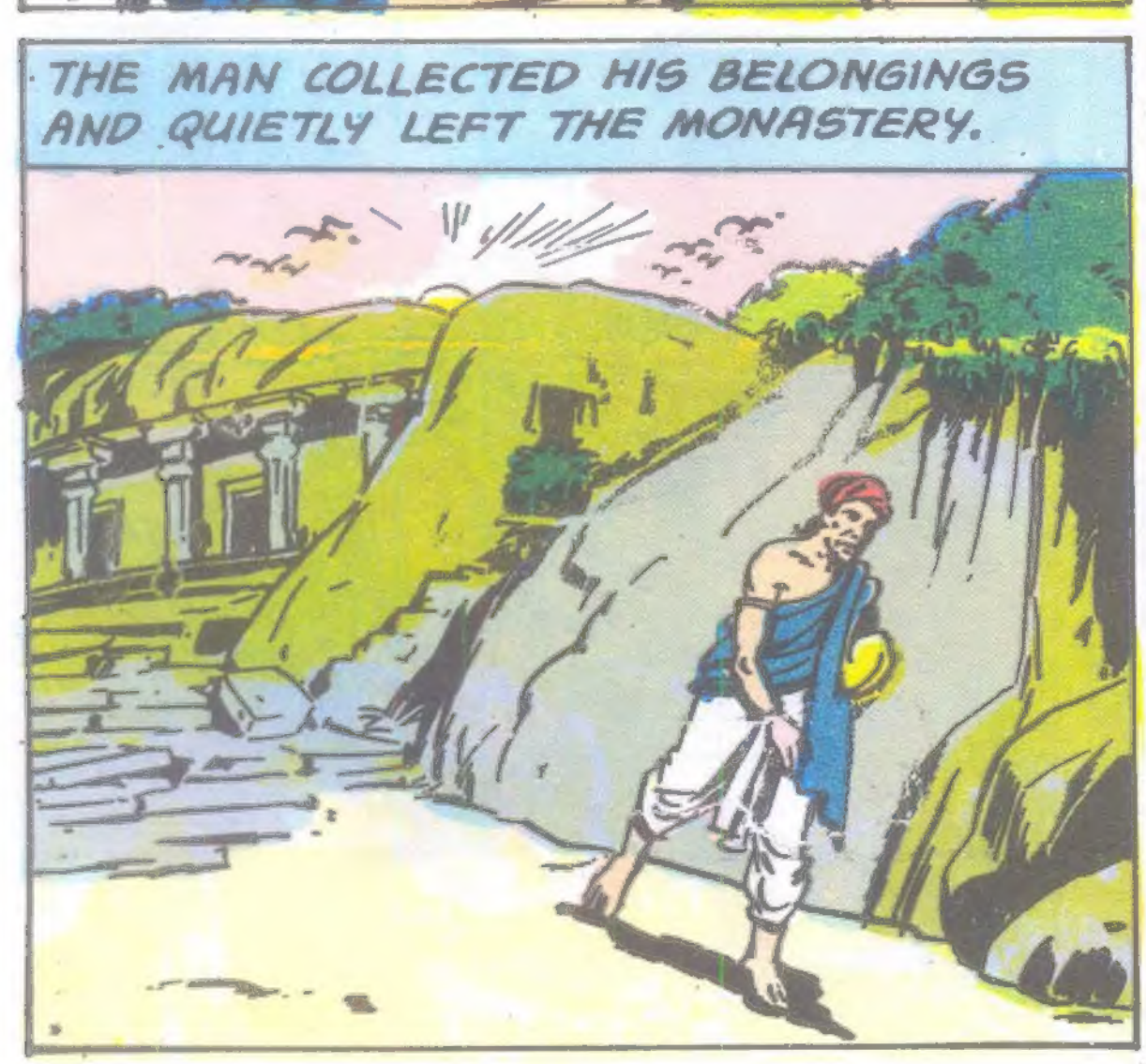
YOU MAY STAY WITH US.

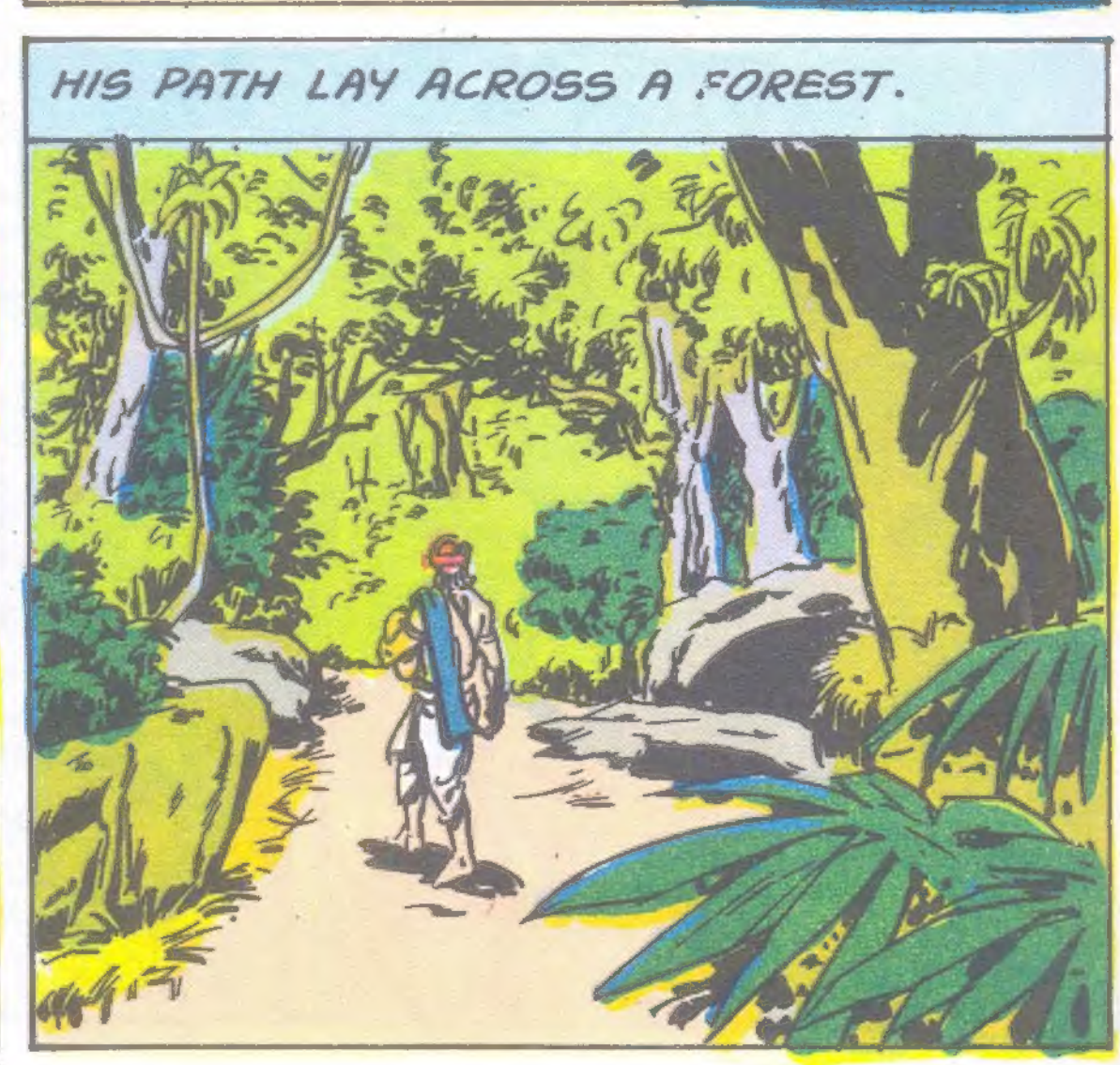

THE STRANGER MADE HIMSELF COMFORTABLE IN THE MONASTERY IN WHICH THE MONKS LIVED. BUT SEVERAL WEEKS LATER—
HOW I LONG TO SEE MY DAUGHTER!

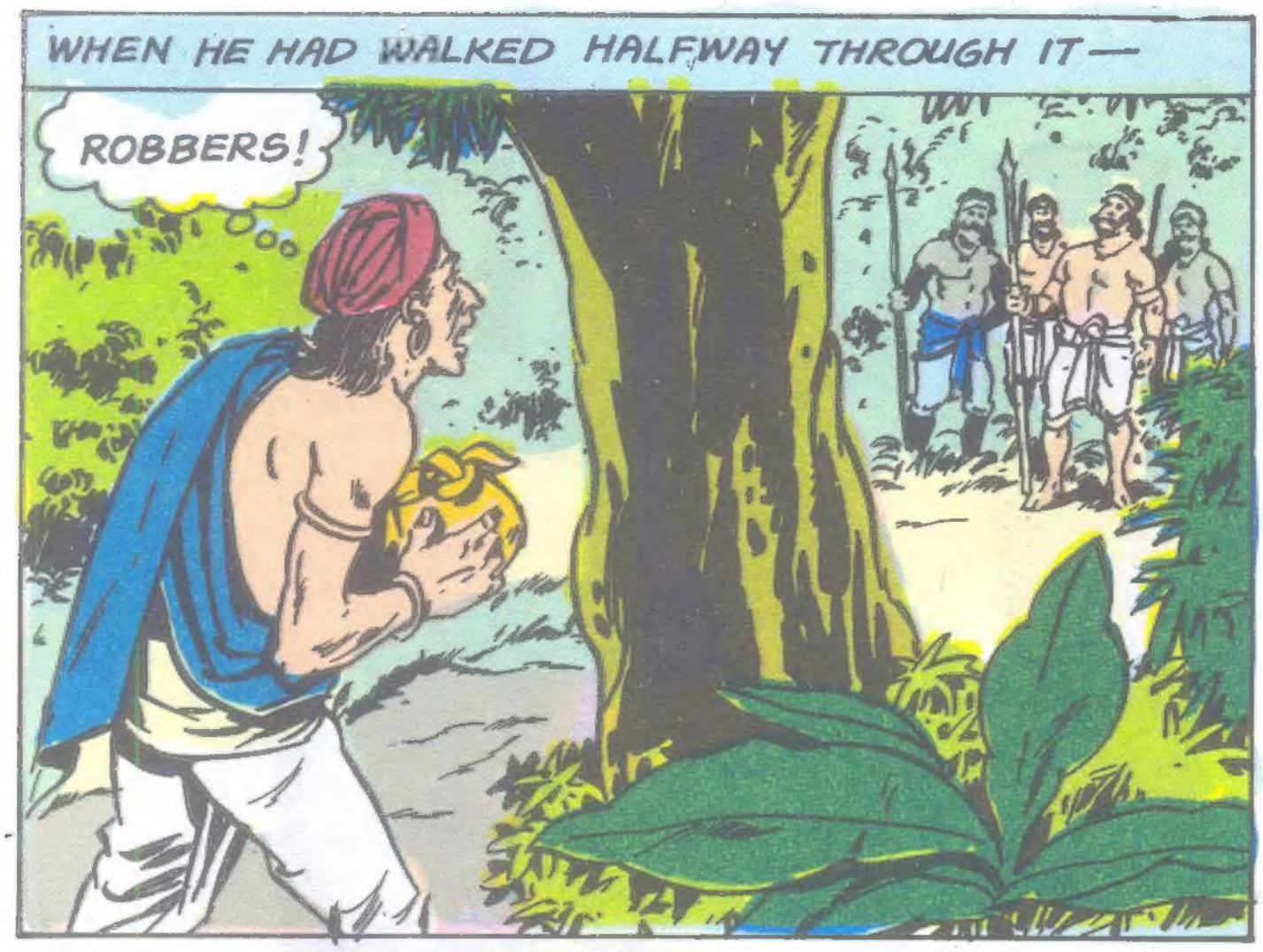

AND MY GRAND-CHILDREN.

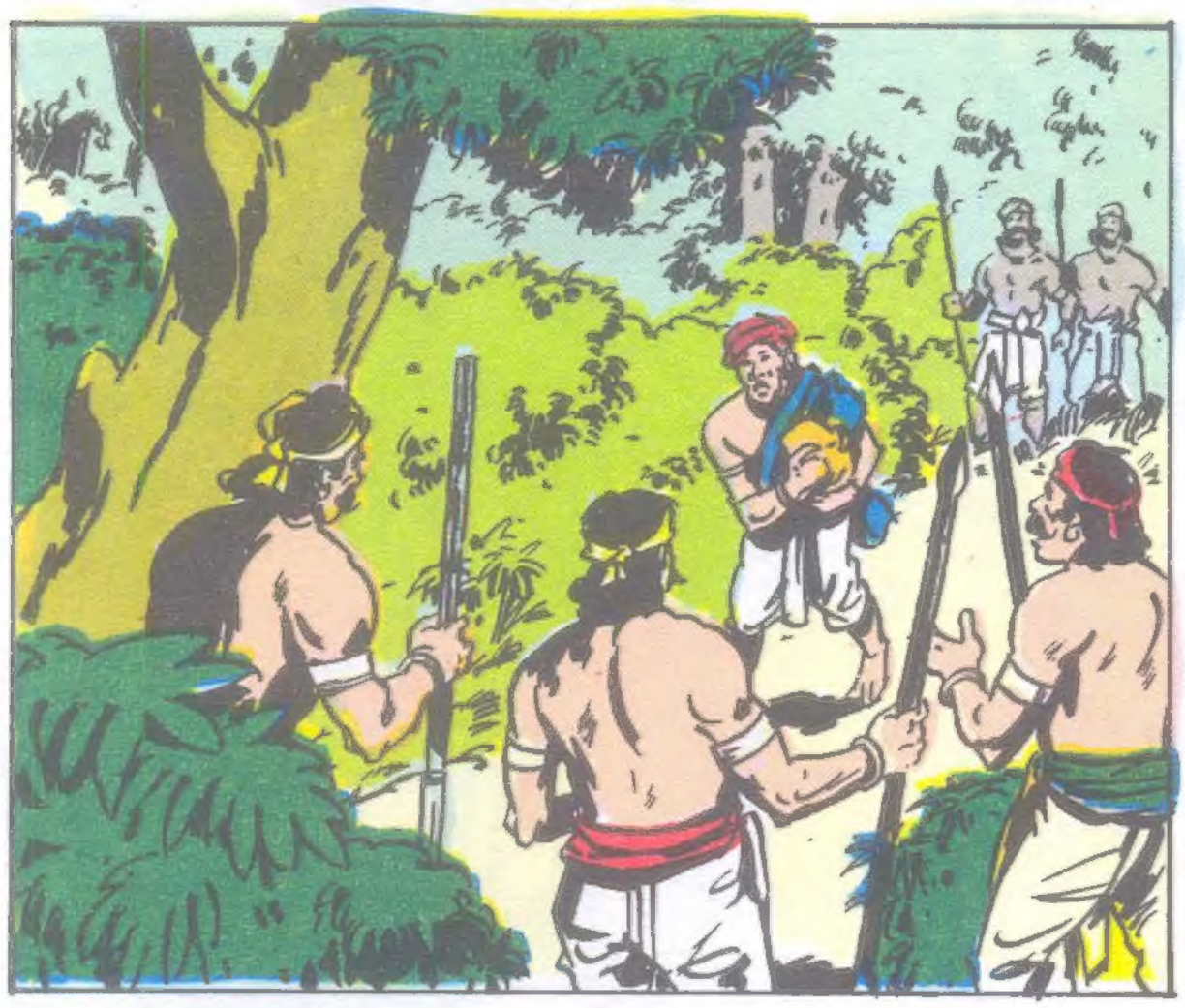

WILL THESE MONKS GIVE ME PERMISSION TO VISIT HER?

I DOUBT IT. BUT WHY DO I HAVE TO ASK THEM AT ALL?


THE MAN COLLECTED HIS BELONGINGS AND QUIETLY LEFT THE MONASTERY.

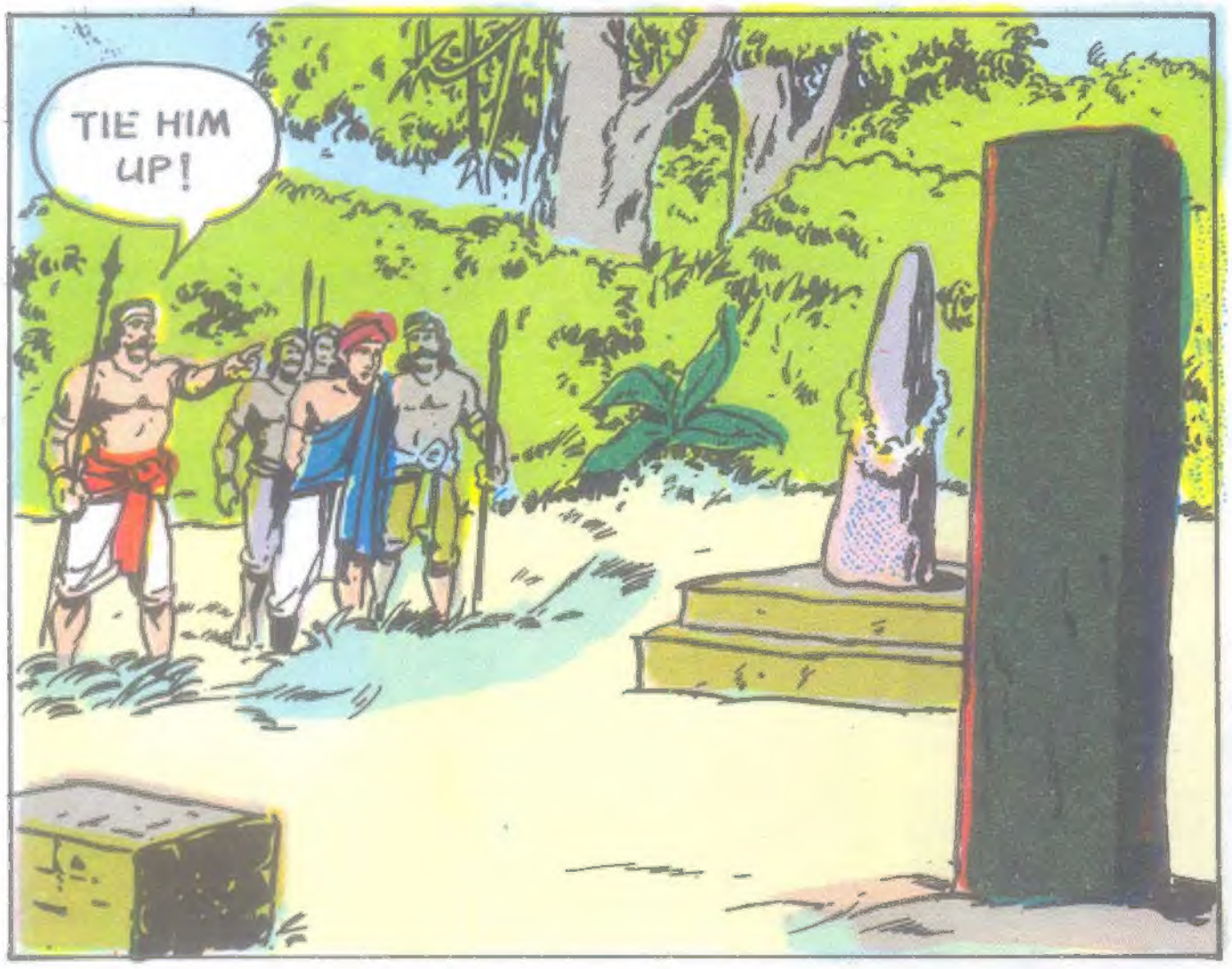

HIS PATH LAY ACROSS A FOREST.

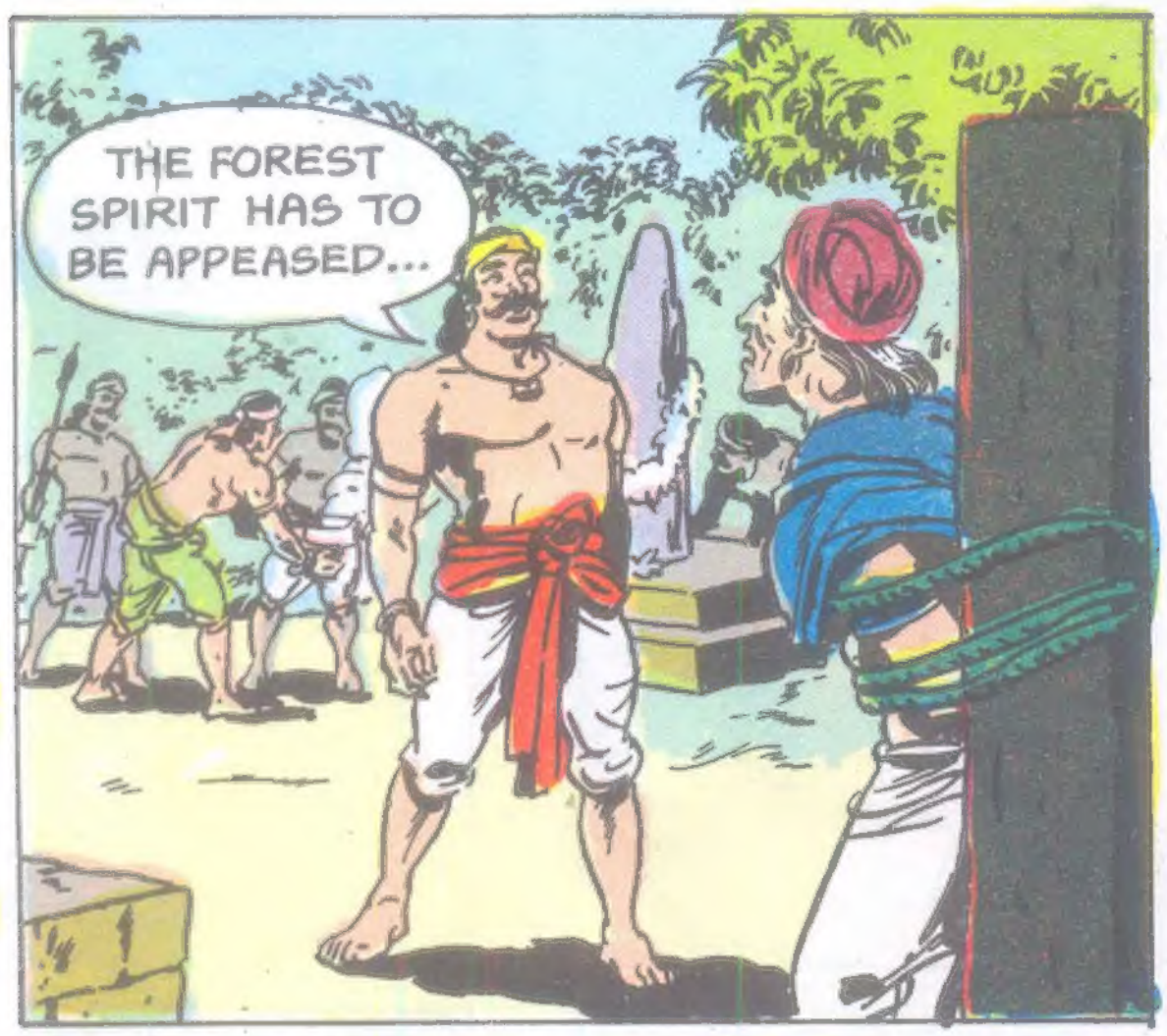

WHEN HE HAD WALKED HALFWAY THROUGH IT—
ROBBERS!



P... PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.

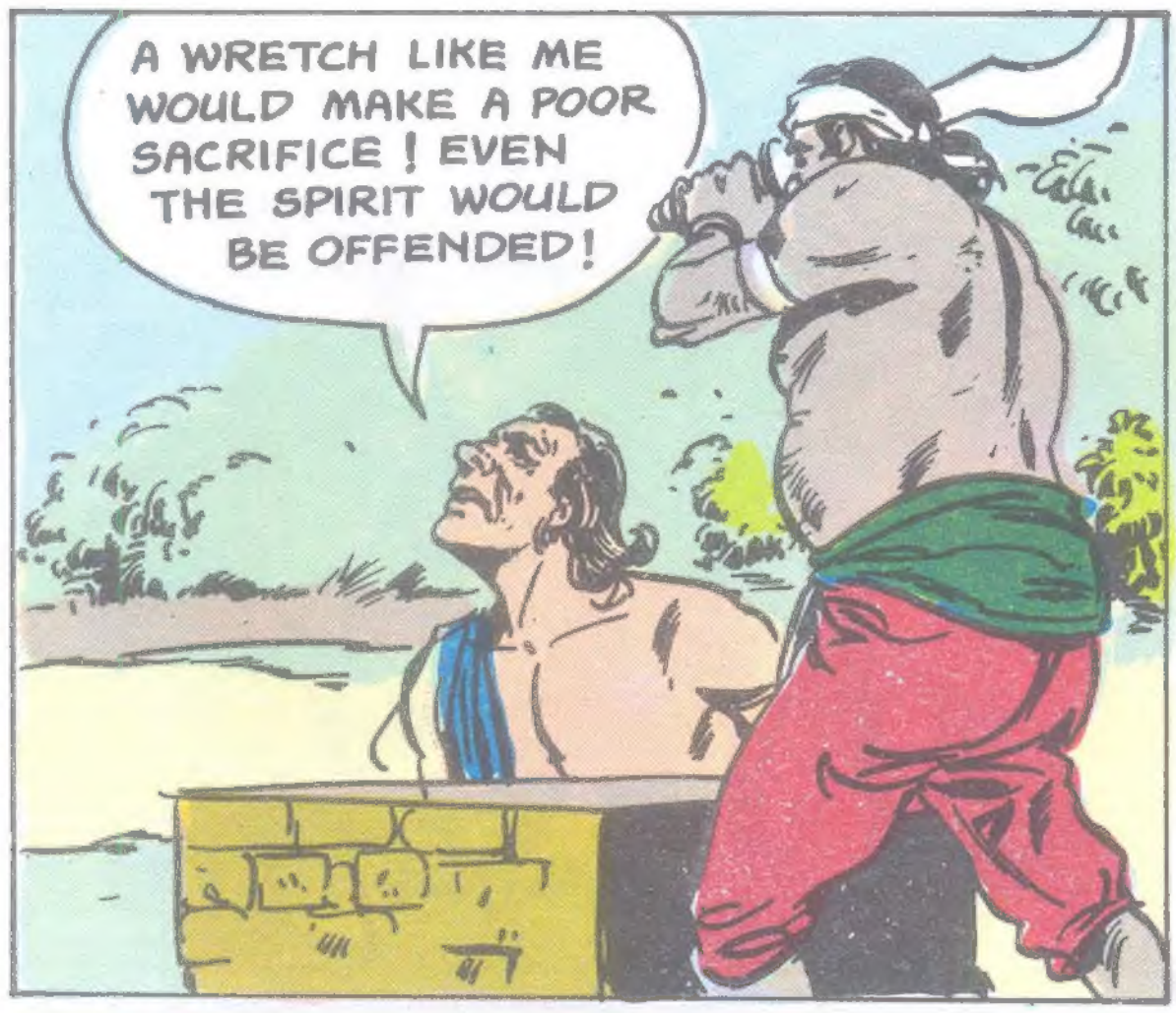
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE. SEE FOR YOURSELVES.

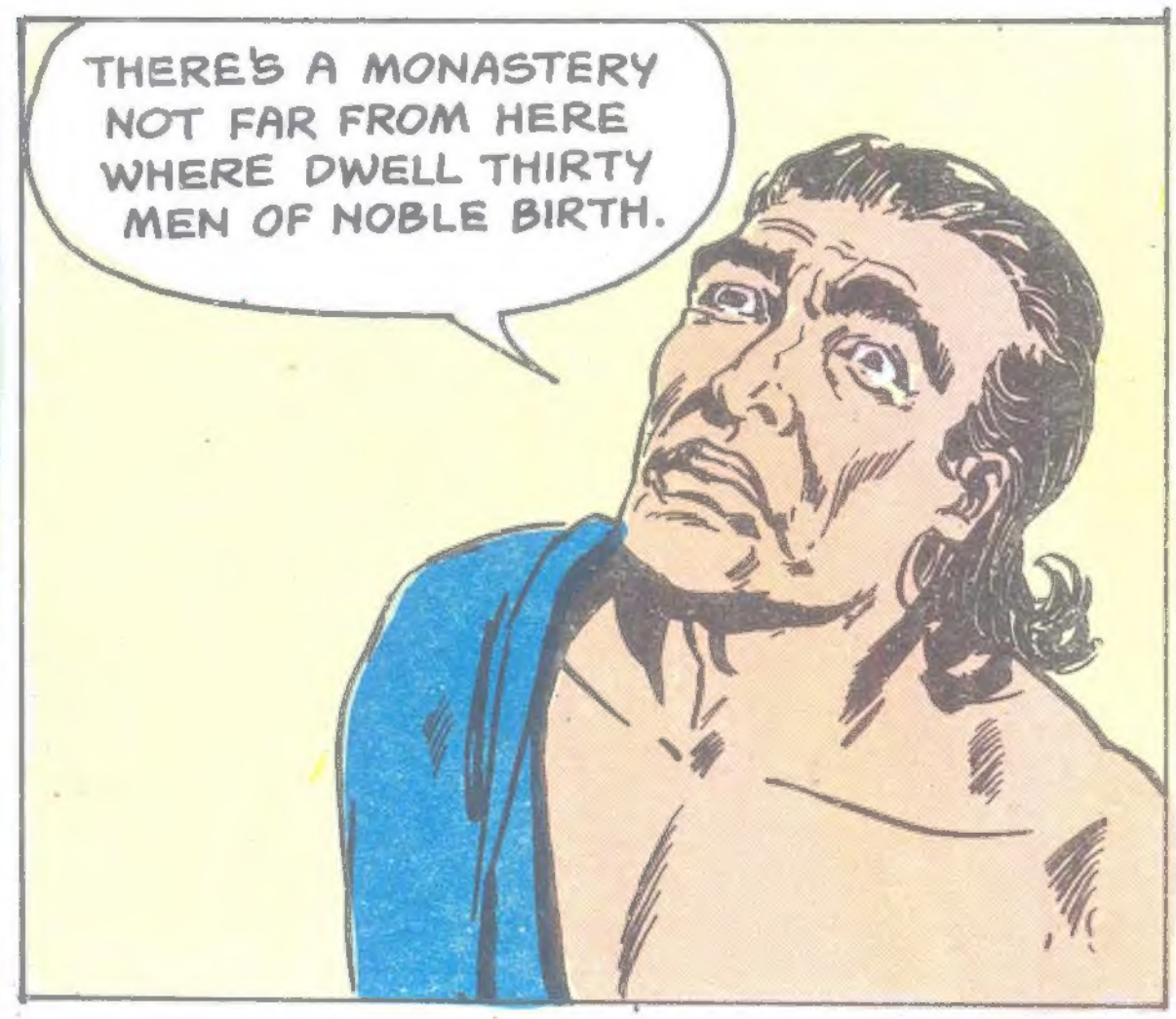

TIE HIM UP!

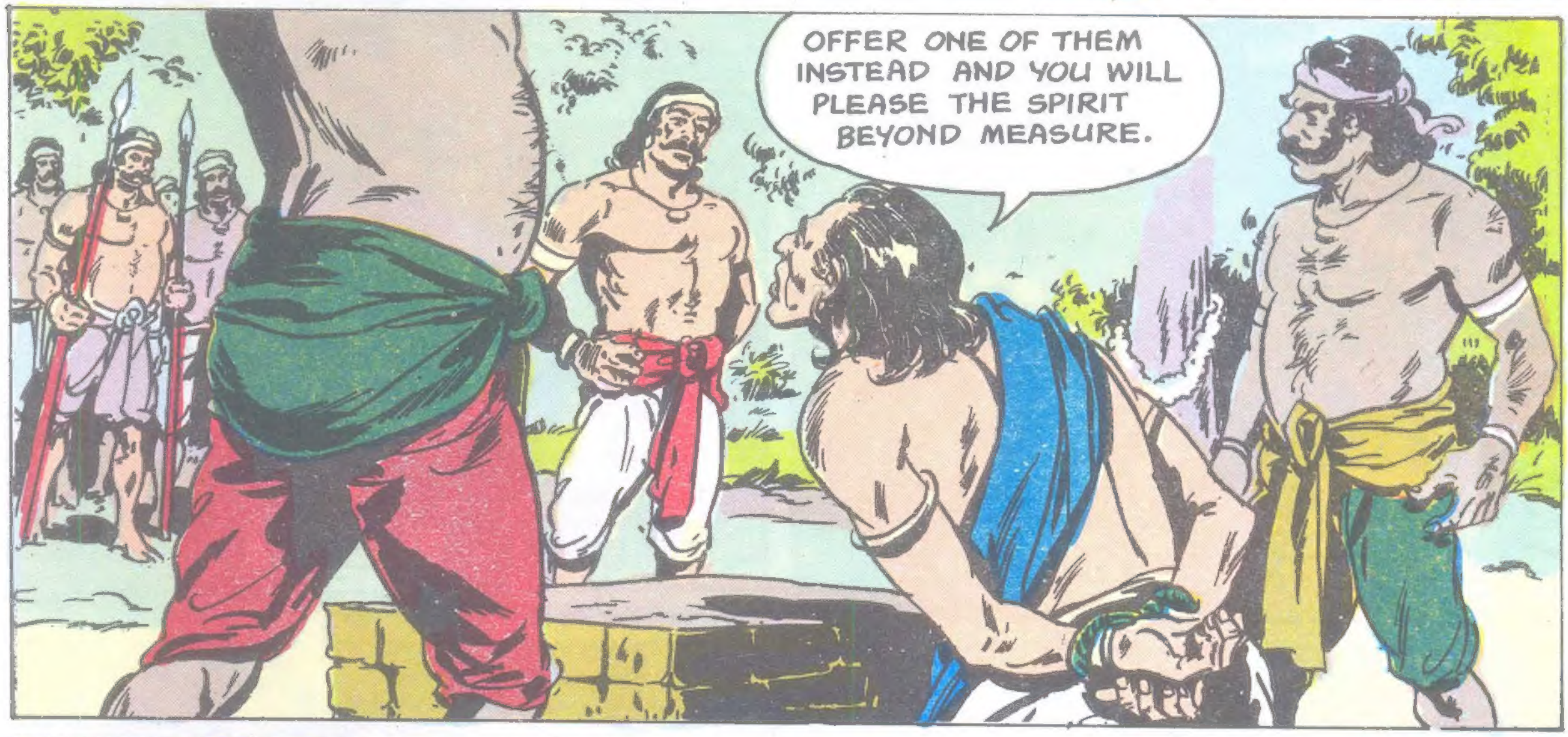

THE FOREST SPIRIT HAS TO BE APPEASED...

... BY A HUMAN SACRIFICE.
NO!

HAVE MERCY ON ME, MASTER!


A WRETCH LIKE ME WOULD MAKE A POOR SACRIFICE ! EVEN THE SPIRIT WOULD BE OFFENDED!


THERE'S A MONASTERY NOT FAR FROM HERE WHERE DWELL THIRTY MEN OF NOBLE BIRTH.


OFFER ONE OF THEM INSTEAD AND YOU WILL PLEASE THE SPIRIT BEYOND MEASURE.

HE IS RIGHT.

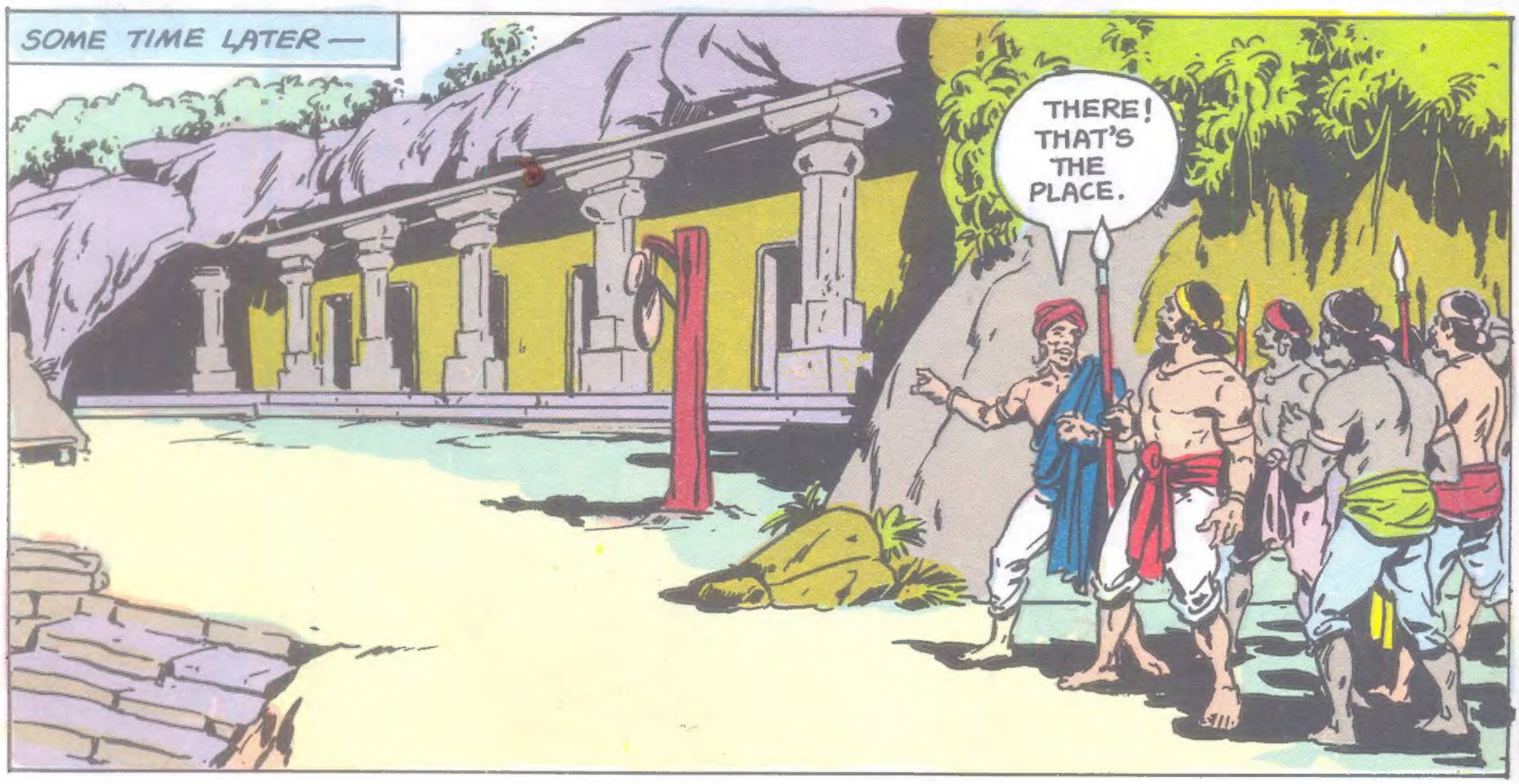
UNTIE THE WRETCHED FELLOW.

I...I WILL FOREVER BE INDEBTED TO YOU.

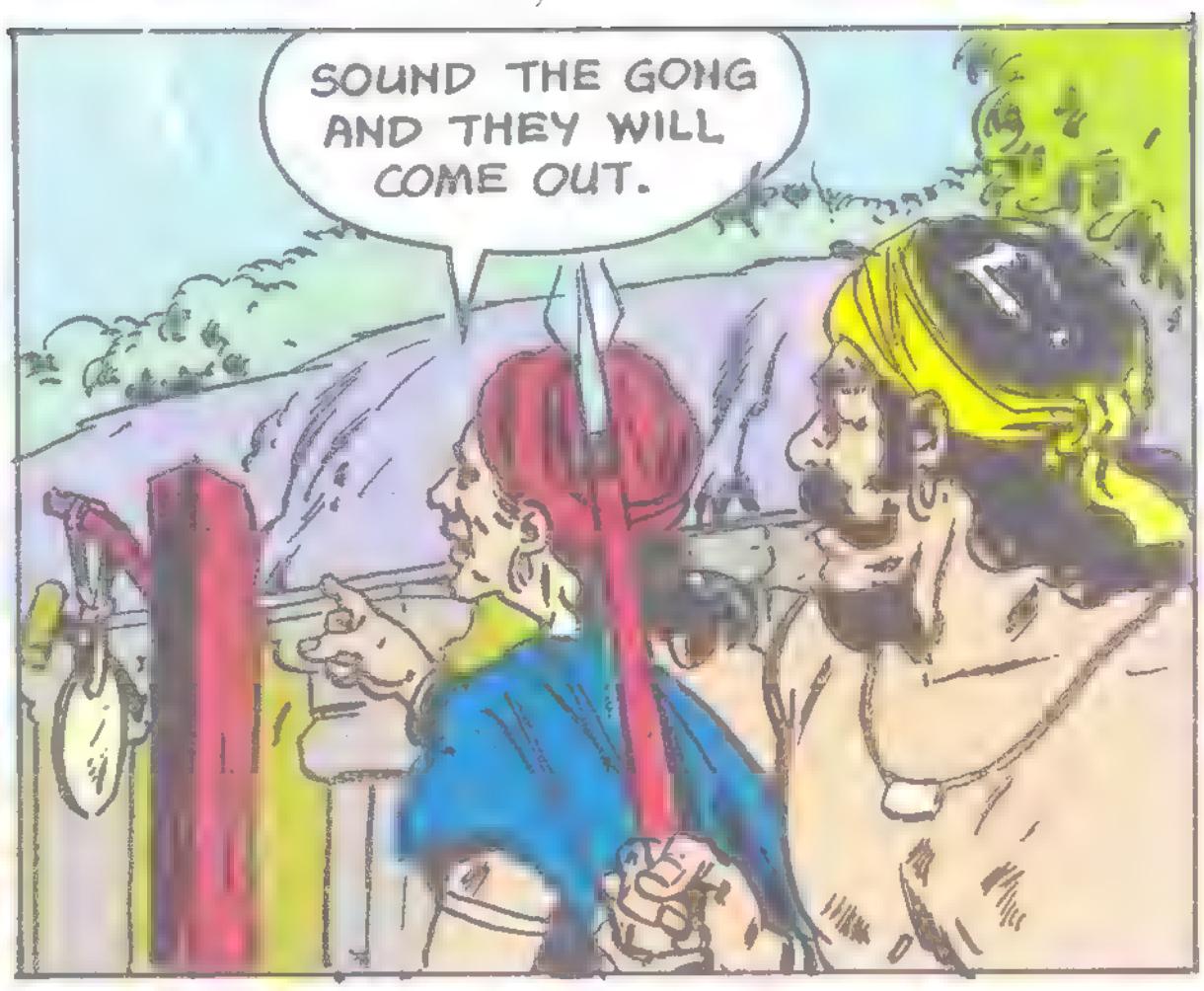
IF EVER YOU NEED MY HELP...
I DO.

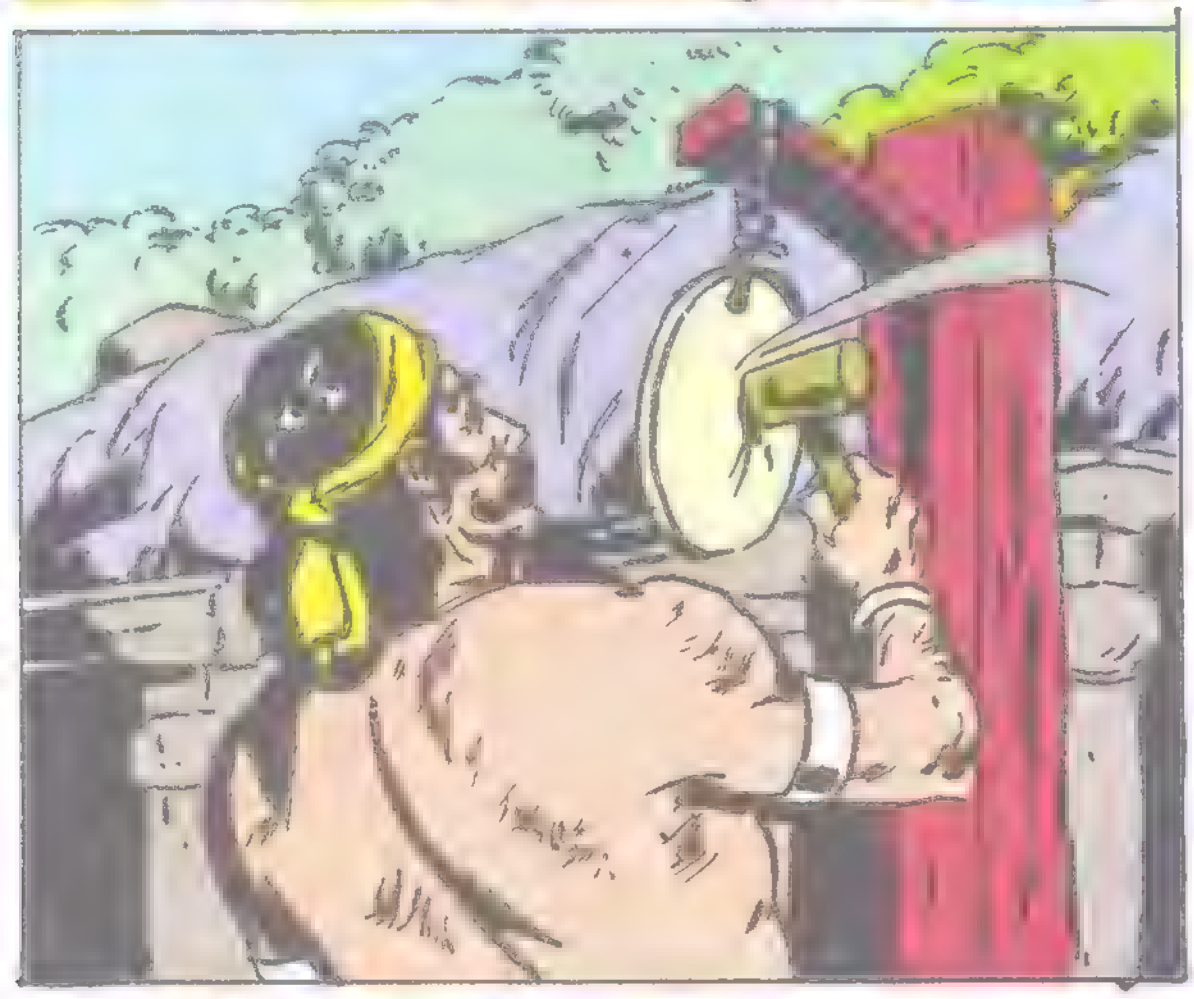
YOU WILL LEAD US TO THE MONASTERY.
C-CERTAINLY!

START WALKING... AND DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE.


SOME TIME LATER—
THERE! THAT'S THE PLACE.

I DON'T SEE ANY MONKS AROUND.
THEY ARE IN THEIR CELLS.


SOUND THE GONG AND THEY WILL COME OUT.



THEY'RE COMING OUT!

WHO STRUCK THE GONG, BROTHERS?
I DID.

WE ARE A GANG OF ROBBERS WHO DWELL IN THE FOREST.

AND THE FOREST SPIRIT HAS TO BE APPEASED WITH A HUMAN SACRIFICE. WE HAVE COME TO CHOOSE A VICTIM.
TAKE ME.

NO, REVERED SIR, WE CANNOT SPARE YOU.

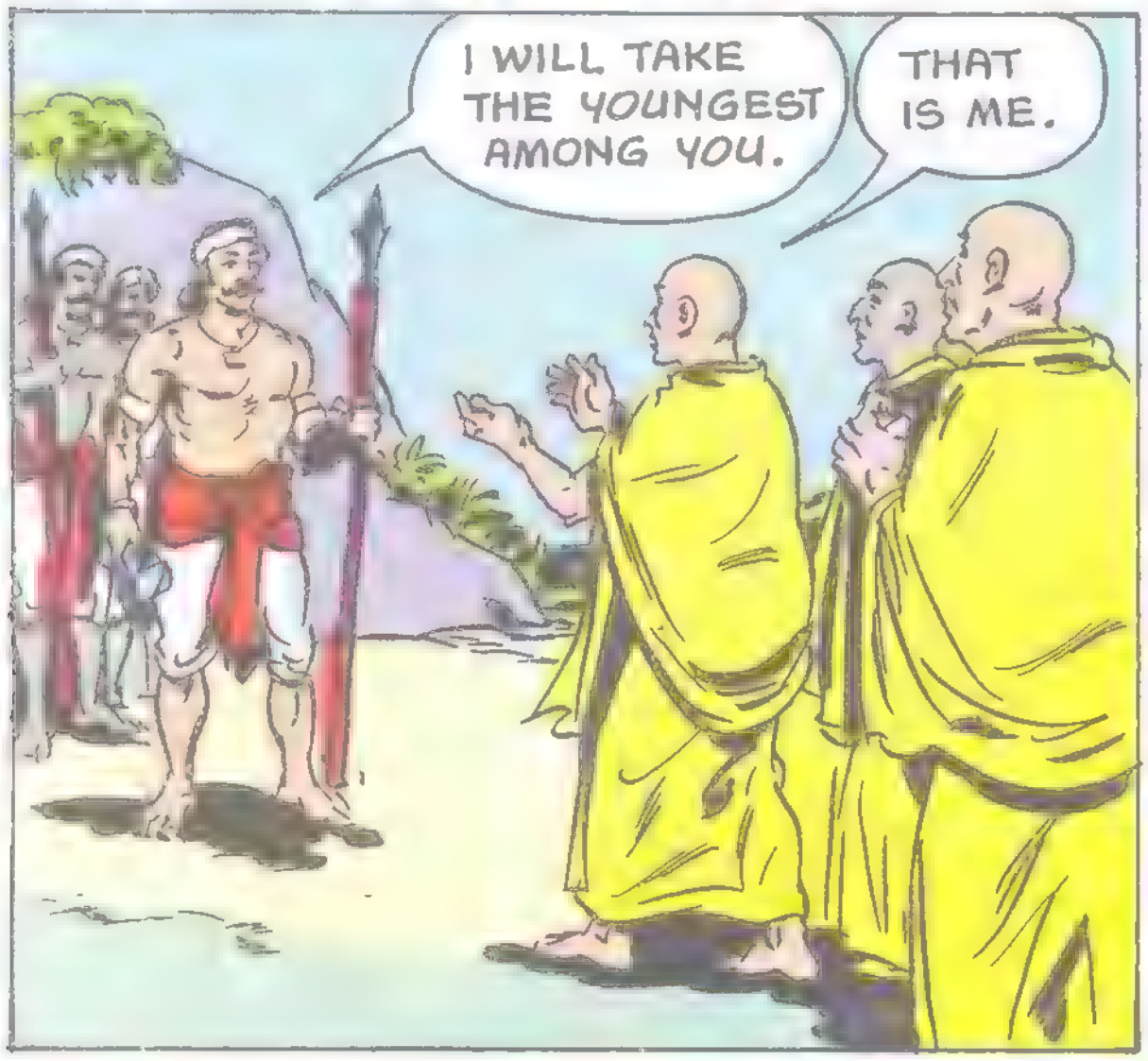
TAKE ME INSTEAD.
NO!

TAKE ME!
NO... ME!
ME!

THEY ARE ALL BRAVE MEN.
THAT IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ATTACHMENTS.

I TOO WOULD HAVE BEEN BRAVE HAD I NO DAUGHTERS OR GRAND-CHILDREN OR...

DEPART FROM MY SIGHT, YOU WRETCHED MAN!


I WILL TAKE THE YOUNGEST AMONG YOU.
THAT IS ME.

YOU ARE MISTAKEN, BROTHER.
SAMKICCA!

YOU ARE BUT A NOVICE.

I AM THE YOUNGEST PERSON HERE, REVERED SIR.

I SHALL GO. DO NOT STOP ME, I ENTREAT YOU.

SAMKICCA DEPARTED WITH THE ROBBERS.

SOON —

HERE WE ARE... THIS IS OUR TEMPLE.

SIT!

SAMKICCA SAT ON THE GROUND AND IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO A TRANCE.

HE IS SAINTLY AND DESERVES A MERCIFUL DEATH.

I SHALL DESPATCH HIM WITH ONE BLOW.

RECEIVE THIS SACRIFICE, O GREAT SPIRIT AND SHOWER THY BLESSINGS ON US!

THUD

!

?!

DID I MISS?

MY HAND SLIPPED.

THIS TIME I'LL CLEAVE HIS HEAD IN TWO!

THUD

H-HE IS NO ORDINARY MORTAL.

I...I HAVE BROKEN MY SWORD ON YOUR HEAD.
YET YOU REMAIN SO CALM. HAVE YOU NO FEAR?

SAMKICCA CAME OUT OF HIS TRANCE.

HE THAT IS FREE OF DESIRE HAS NO MENTAL SUFFERING.

TO ONE WHO IS FREE OF ATTACHMENT, DEATH HAS NO TERROR.

I SHALL GIVE UP MY LAWLESS LIFE AND FOLLOW YOU.

WE TOO.

AND SAMKICCA, WHO HAD GONE INTO THE FOREST WITH A BAND OF ROBBERS, RETURNED TO THE MONASTERY WITH A BAND OF DISCIPLES.

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THE TWO DISCIPLES

AN ELDER HAD TWO DISCIPLES. ONE WAS LAZY AND THE OTHER, HARDWORKING.

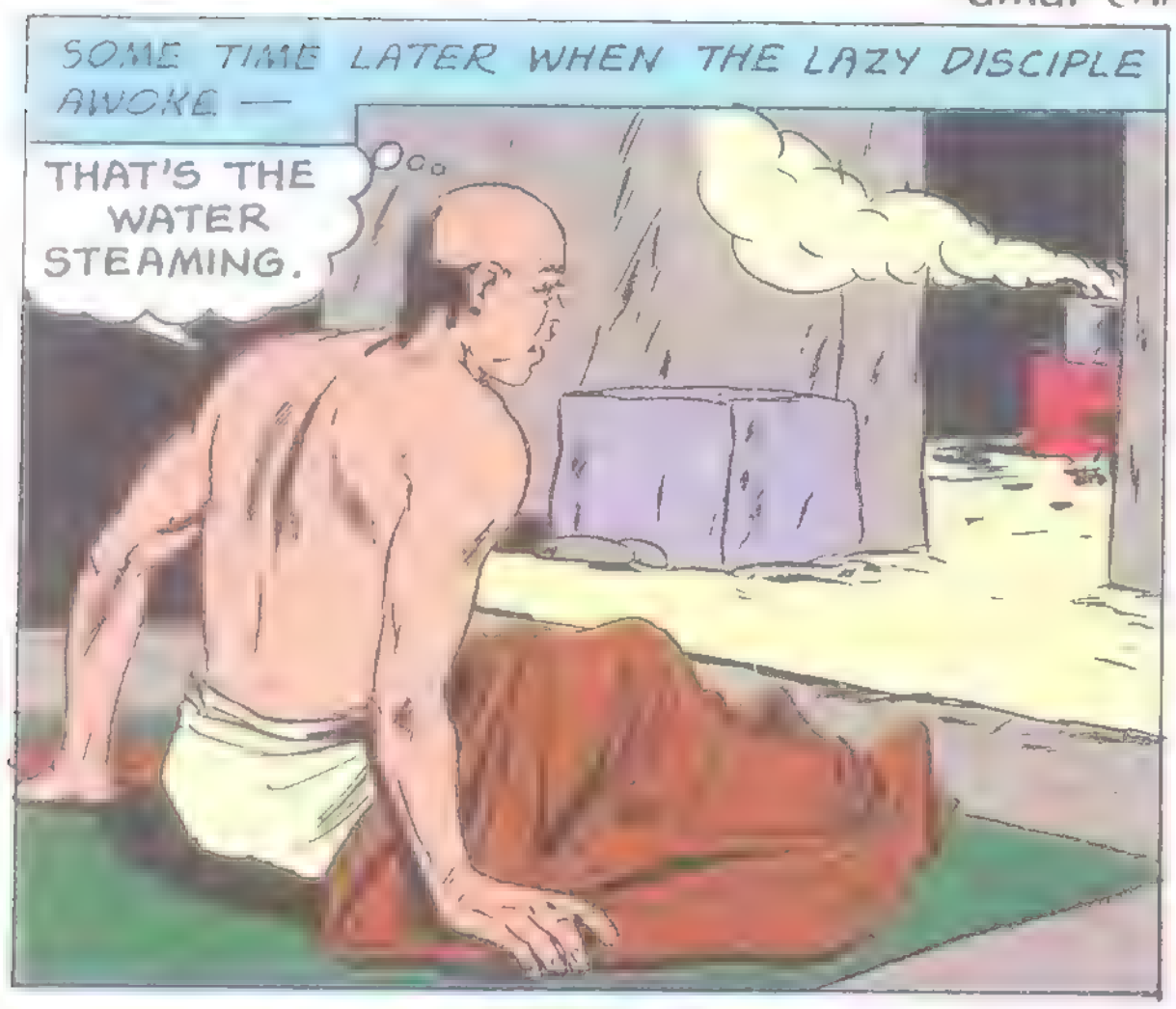
WAKE UP!

WAKE UP, BROTHER! COME WITH ME TO THE RIVER TO FETCH WATER FOR THE MASTER'S BATH.

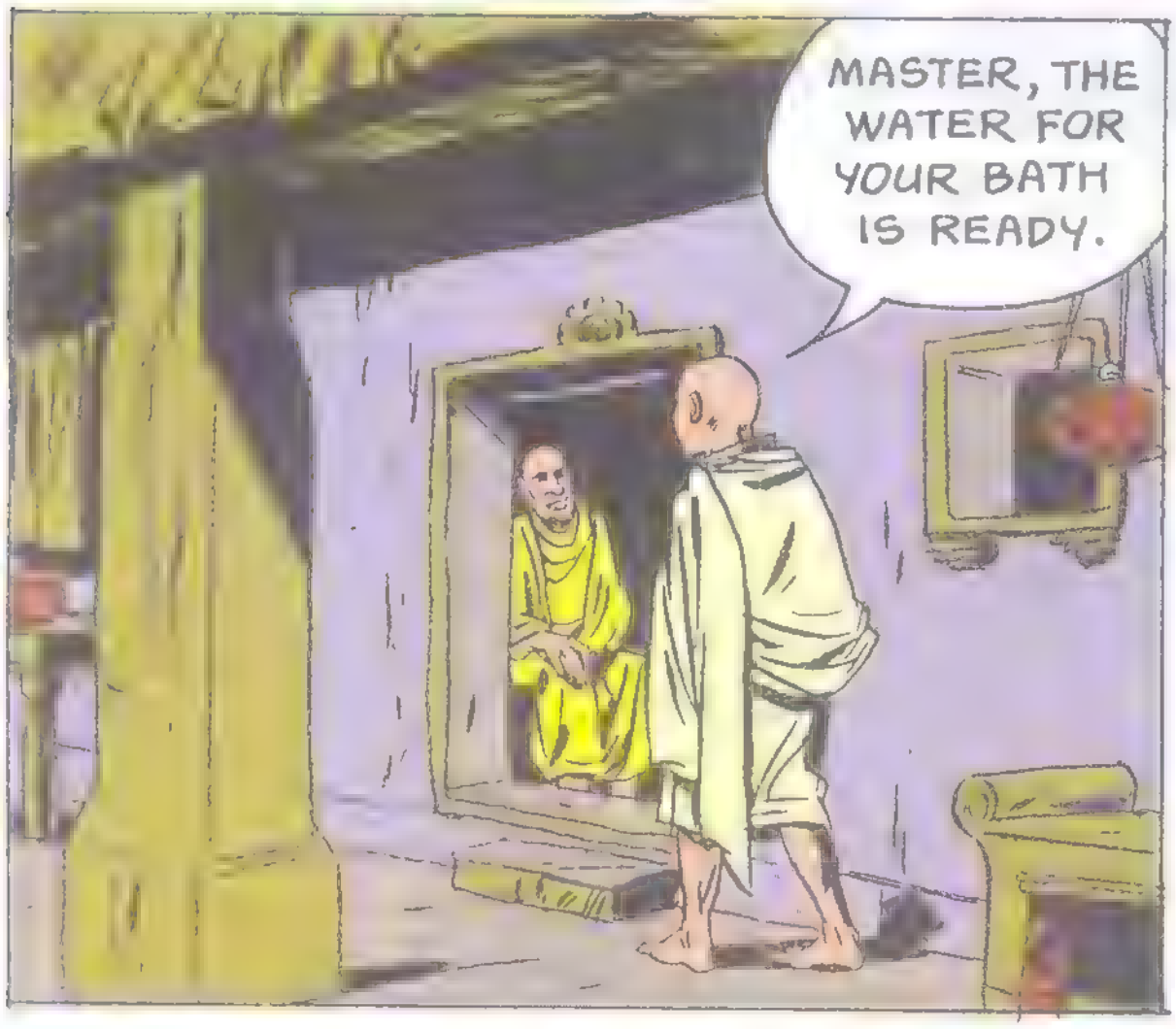
OH, HE SLEEPS LIKE A LOG!

THE DUTIFUL DISCIPLE FETCHED THE WATER HIMSELF...

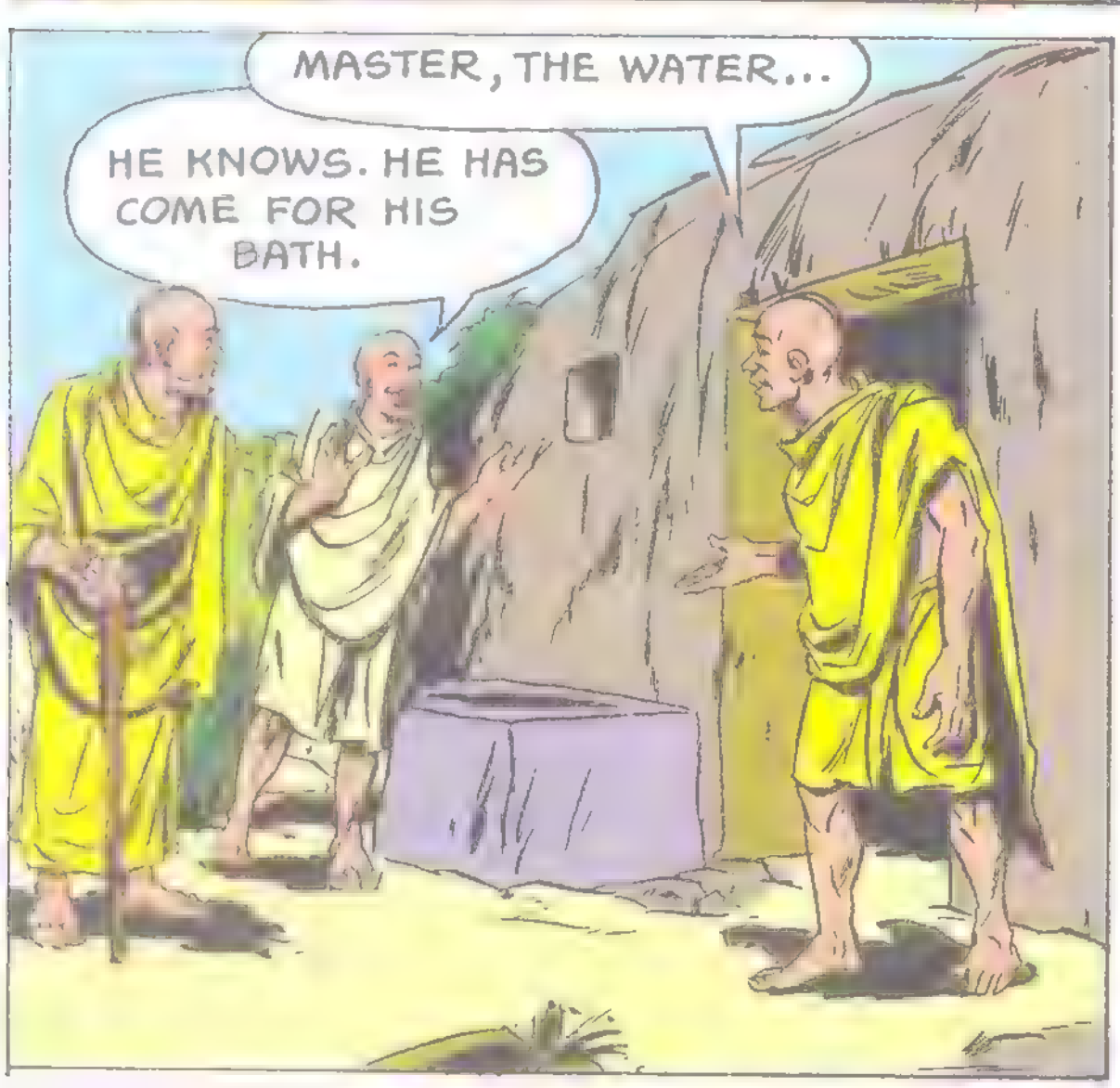
... AND SET IT TO HEAT.


SOME TIME LATER WHEN THE LAZY DISCIPLE AWOKE —
THAT'S THE WATER STEAMING.

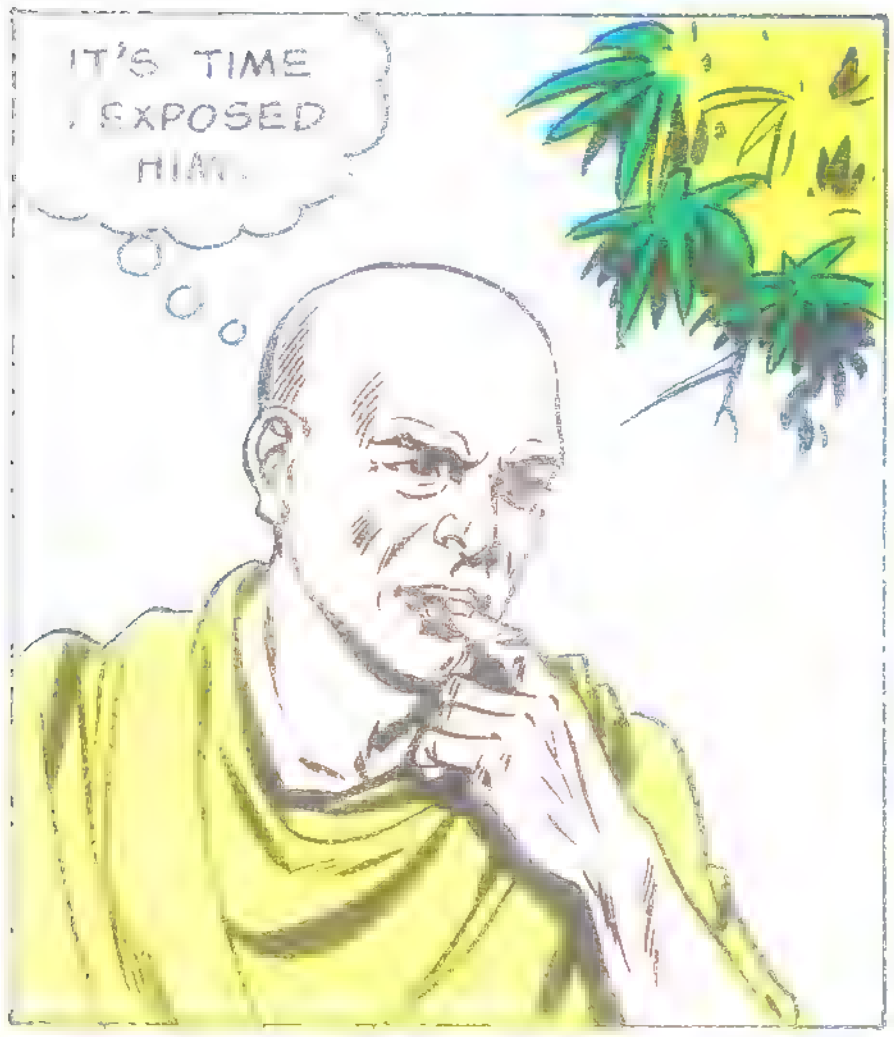
TIME TO GO TO THE MASTER.

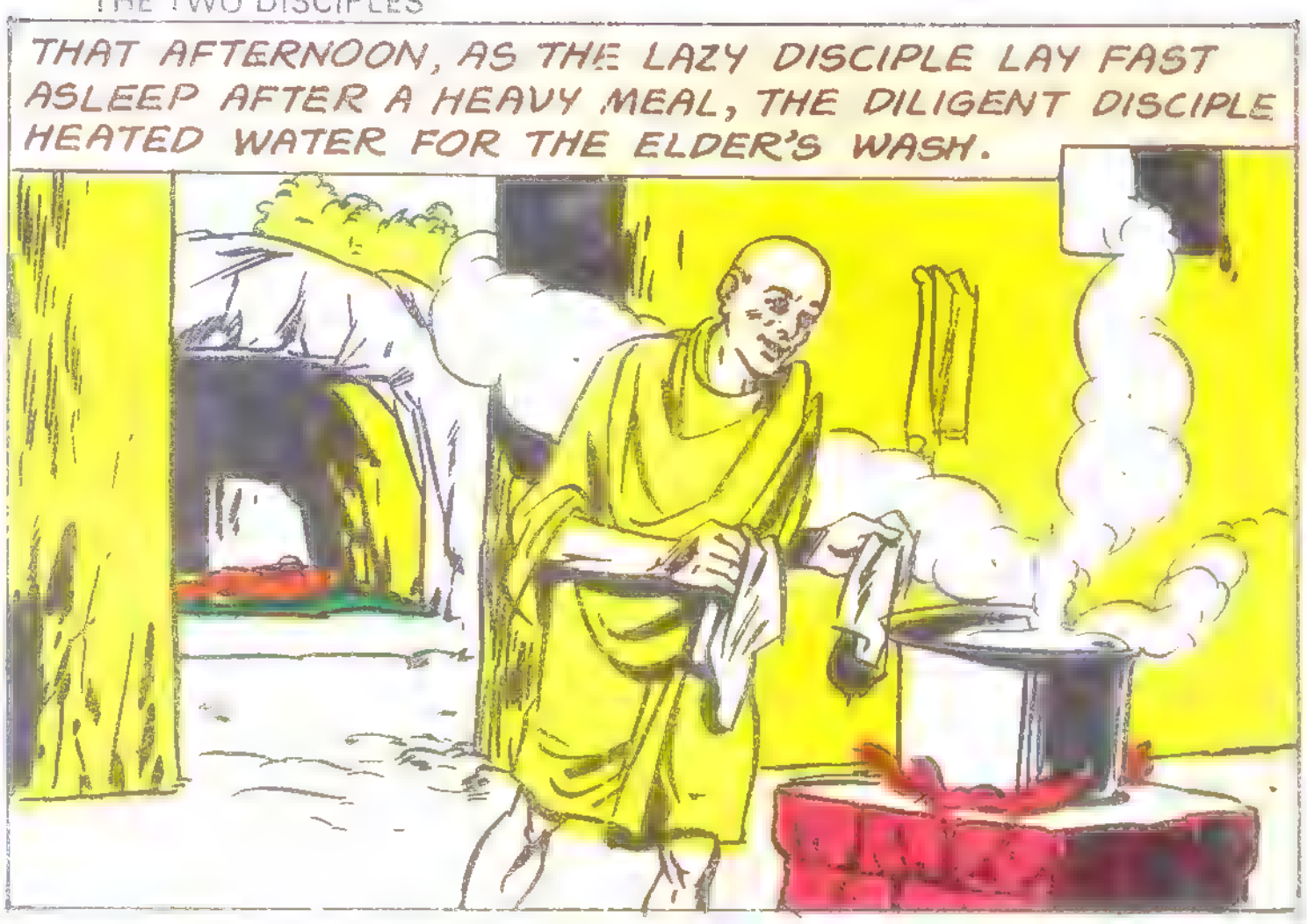

MASTER, THE WATER FOR YOUR BATH IS READY.

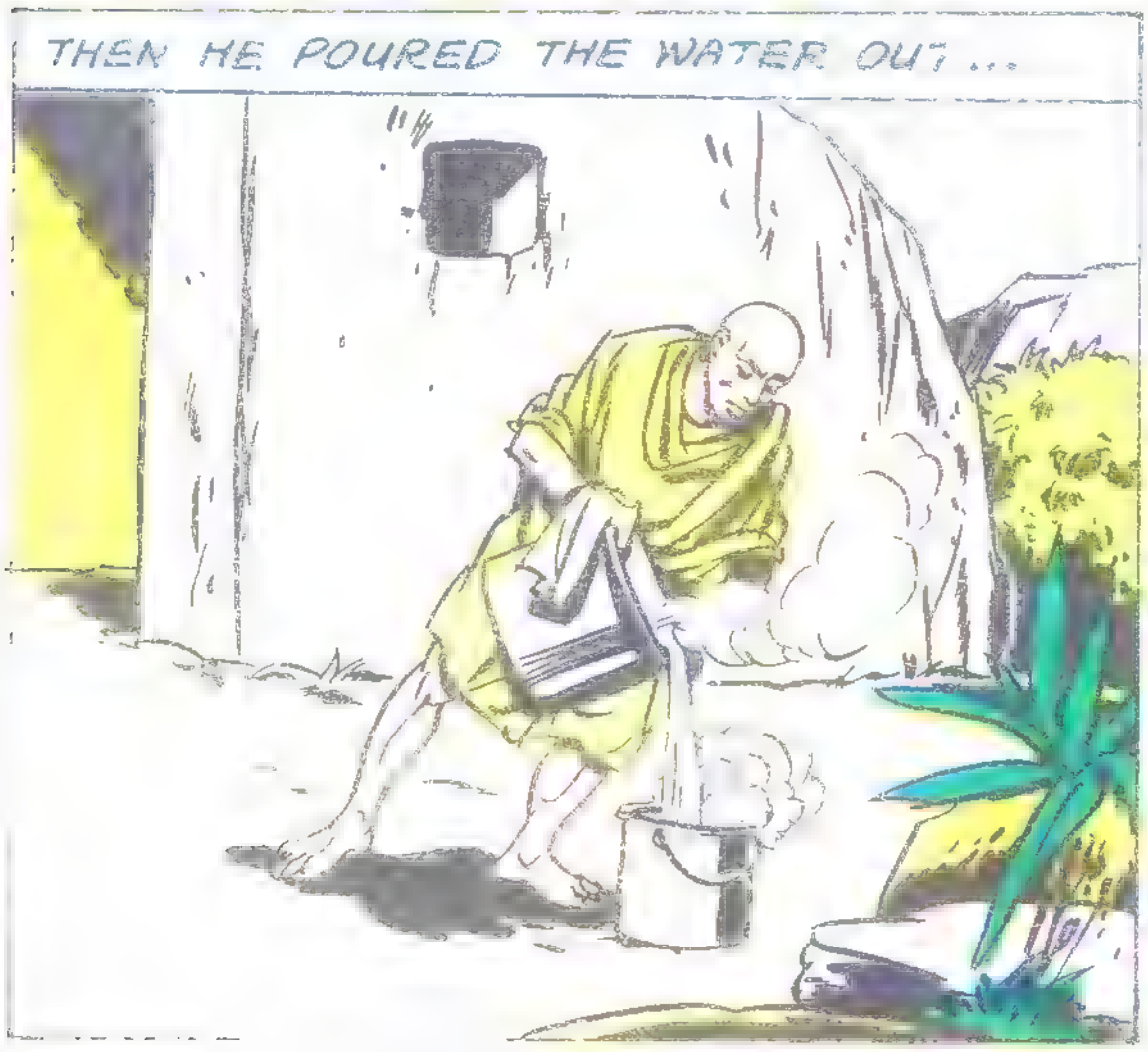
COME, HAVE YOUR BATH BEFORE THE WATER GETS COLD.


MASTER, THE WATER...
HE KNOWS. HE HAS COME FOR HIS BATH.

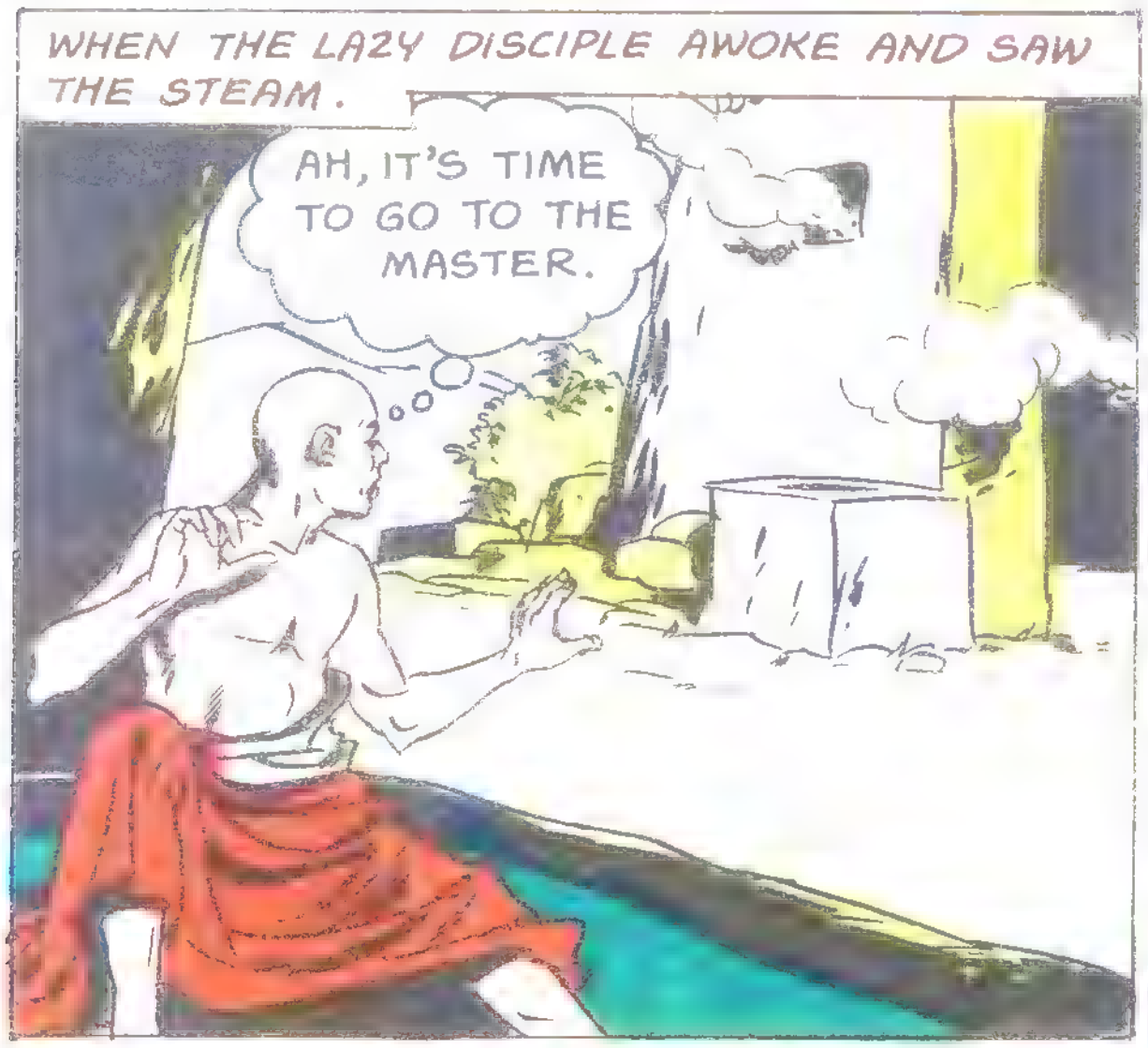
THIS LAZY BROTHER DOES NO WORK, YET TAKES ALL THE CREDIT FOR MINE.


IT'S TIME
I EXPOSED
HIM.

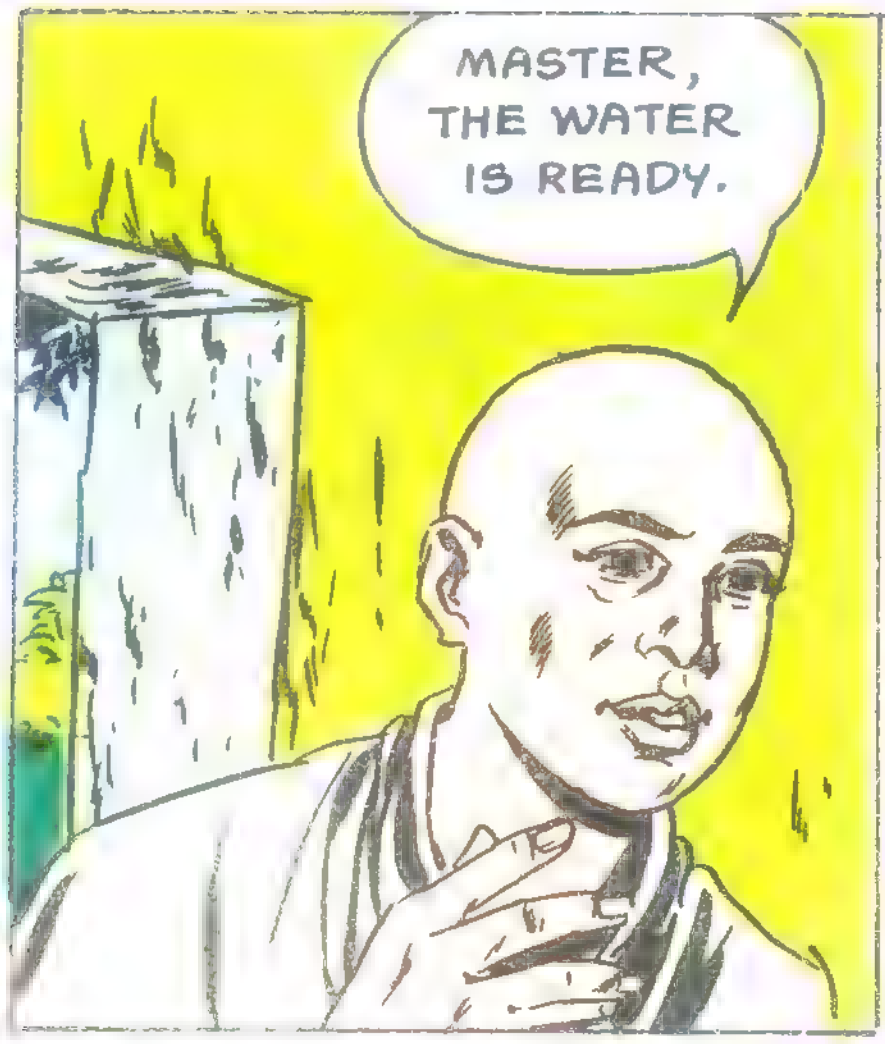

THAT AFTERNOON, AS THE LAZY DISCIPLE LAY FAST ASLEEP AFTER A HEAVY MEAL, THE DILIGENT DISCIPLE HEATED WATER FOR THE ELDER'S WASH.

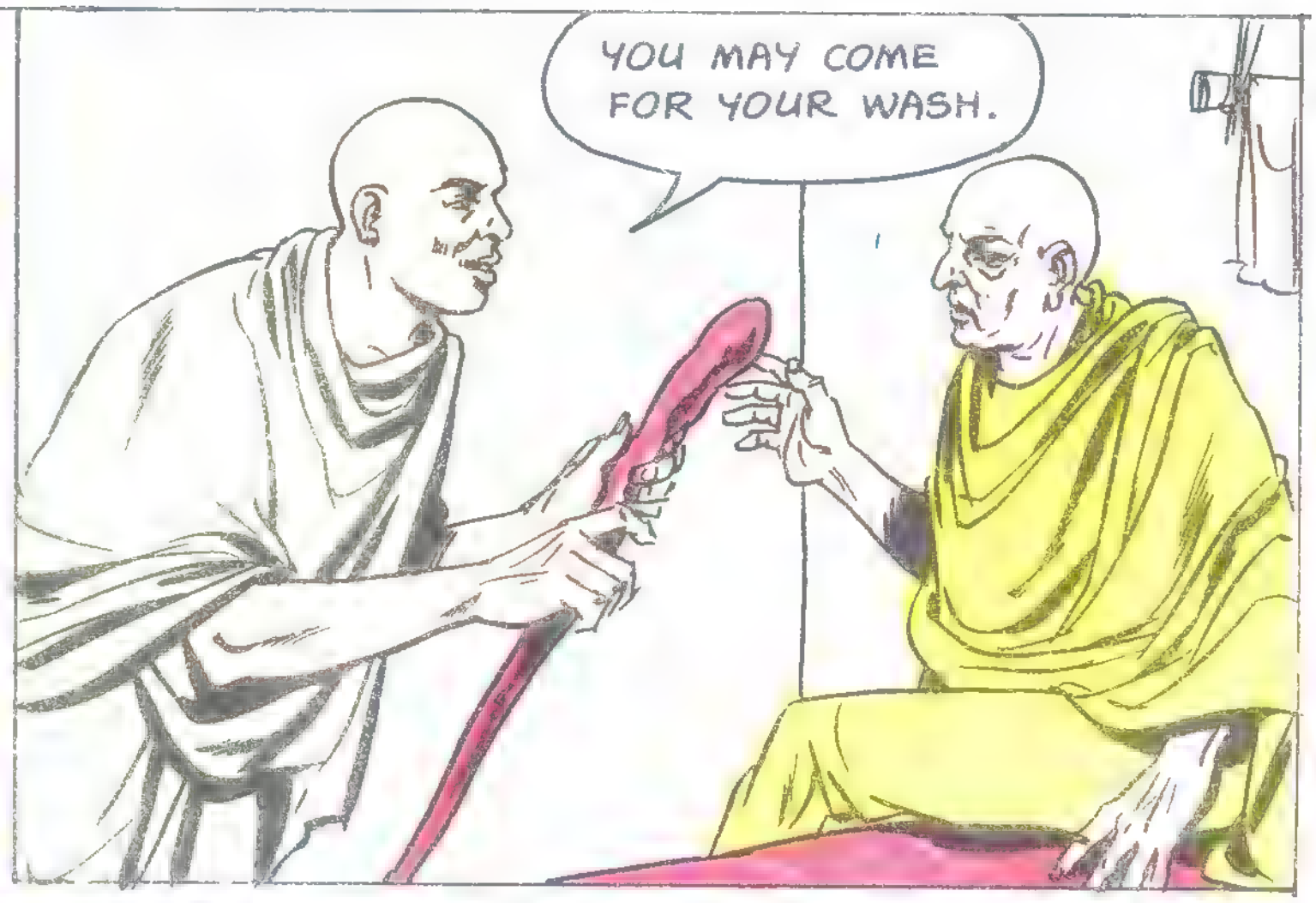

THEN HE POURED THE WATER OUT ...

...AND TOOK IT AWAY, LEAVING ONLY A VERY SMALL QUANTITY STEAMING IN THE VESSEL ON THE FIRE.

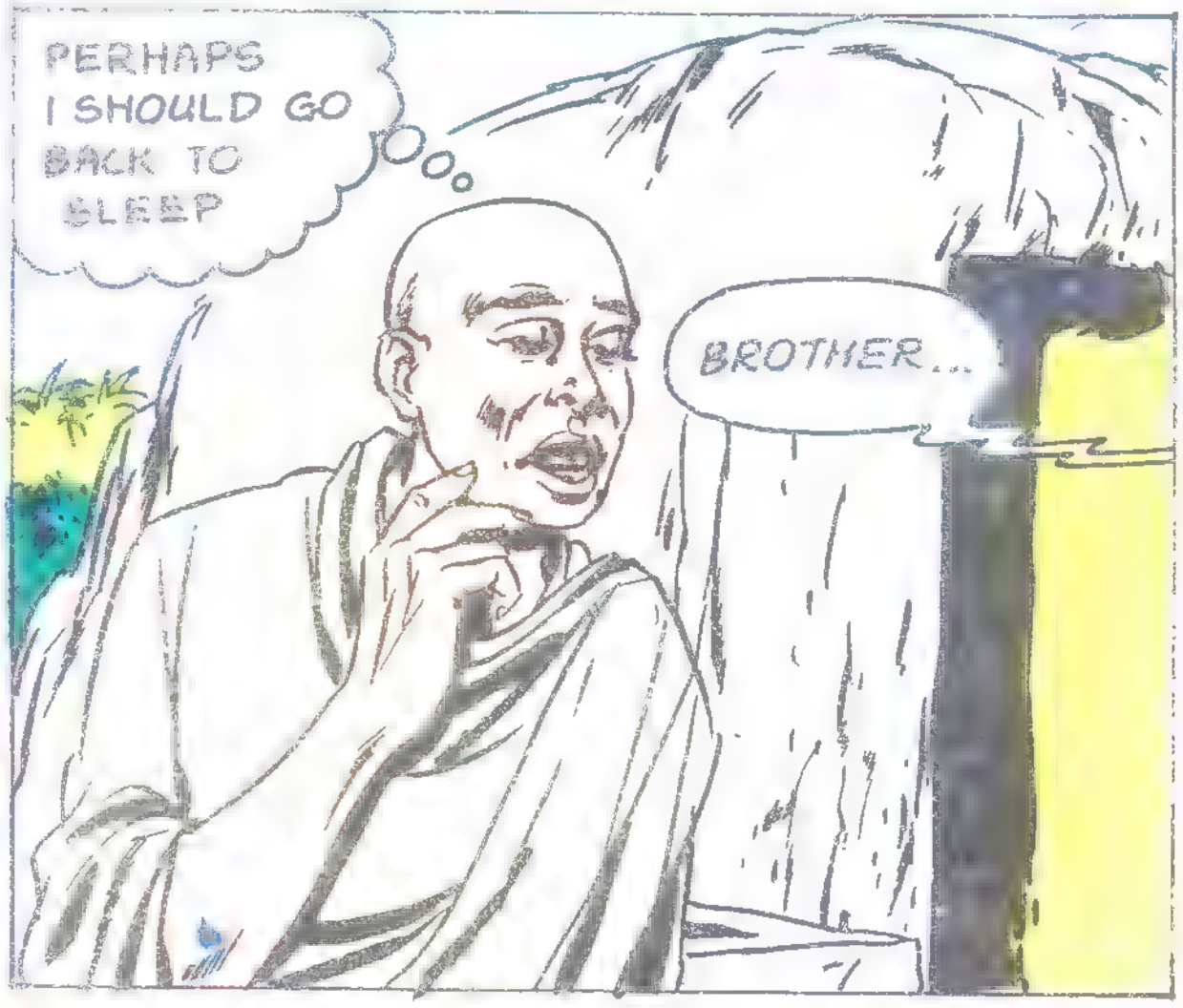

WHEN THE LAZY DISCIPLE AWOKE AND SAW THE STEAM.
AH, IT'S TIME TO GO TO THE MASTER.

MASTER!

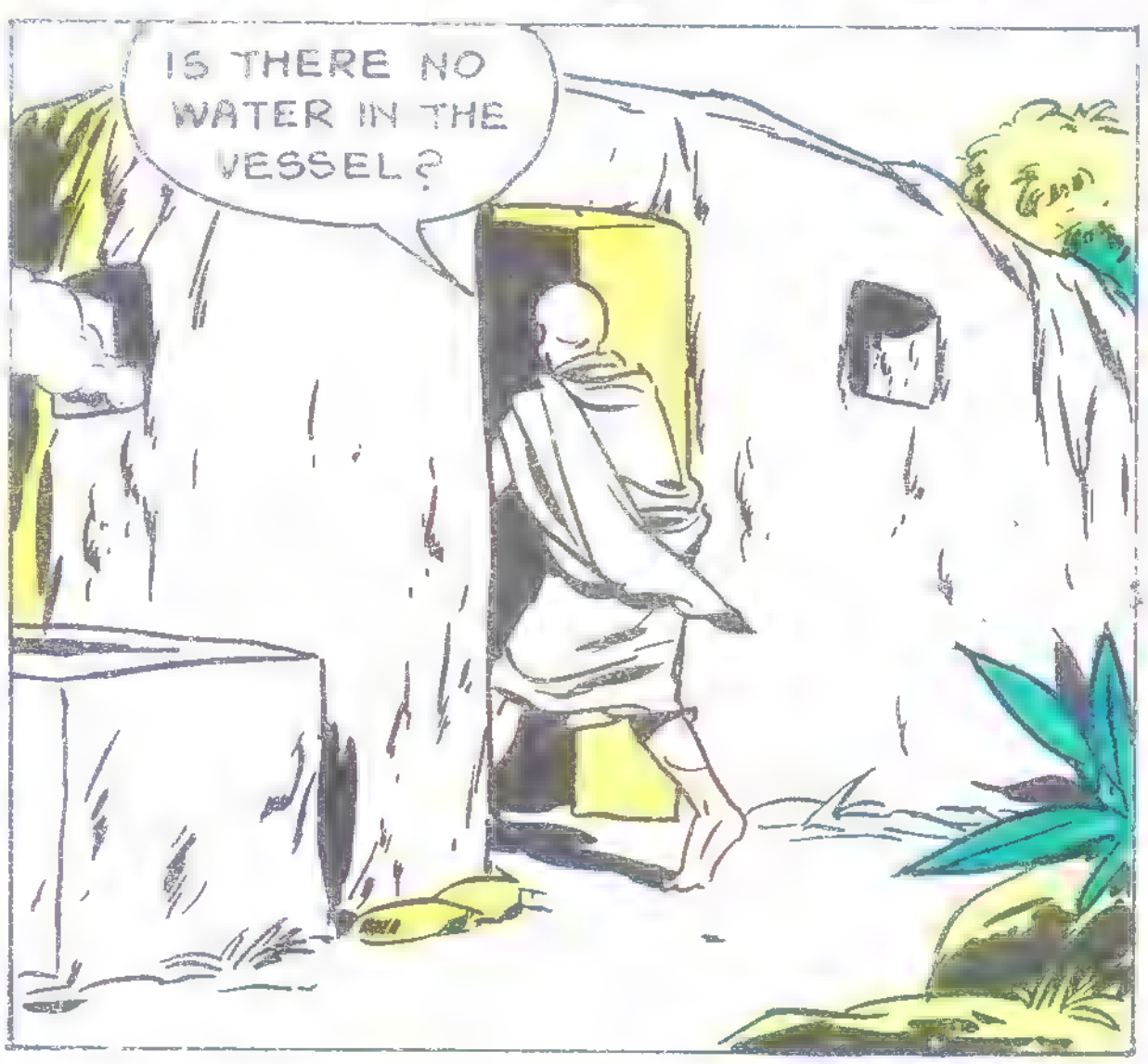

MASTER, THE WATER IS READY.

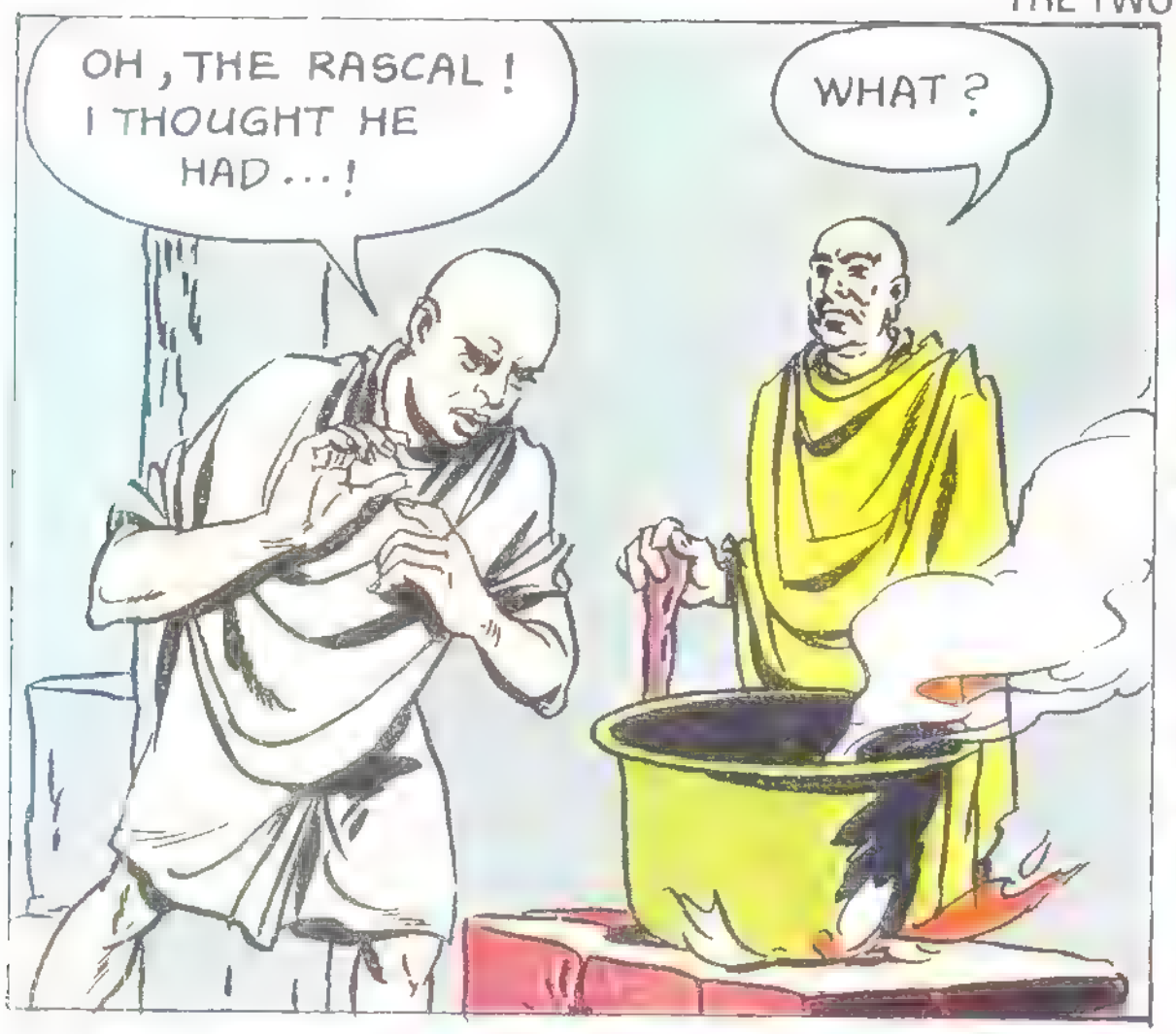

YOU MAY COME FOR YOUR WASH.

I FEEL SO DROWSY.

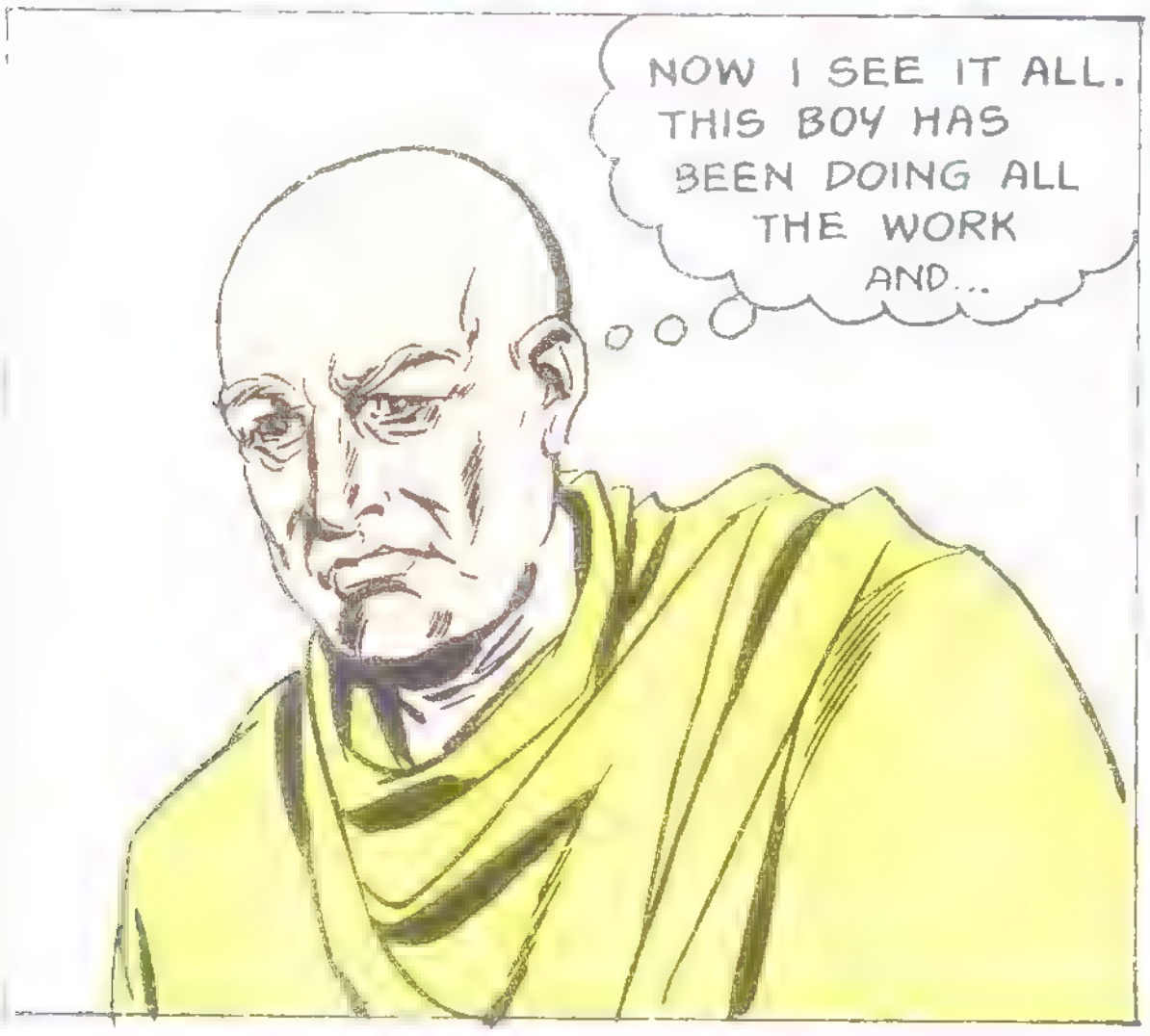

PERHAPS I SHOULD GO BACK TO SLEEP
BROTHER...

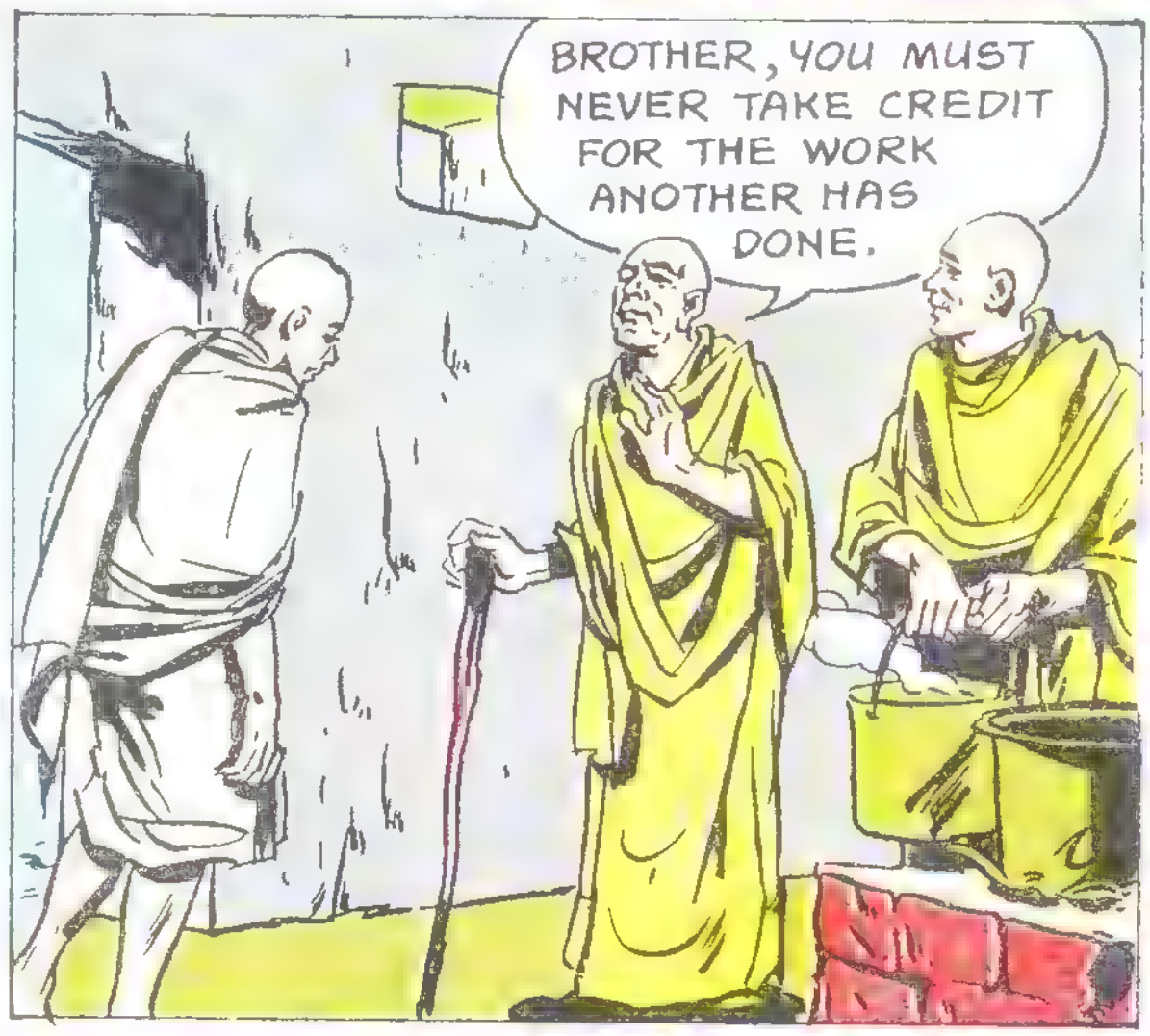
WHERE IS THE WATER?
EH ?!

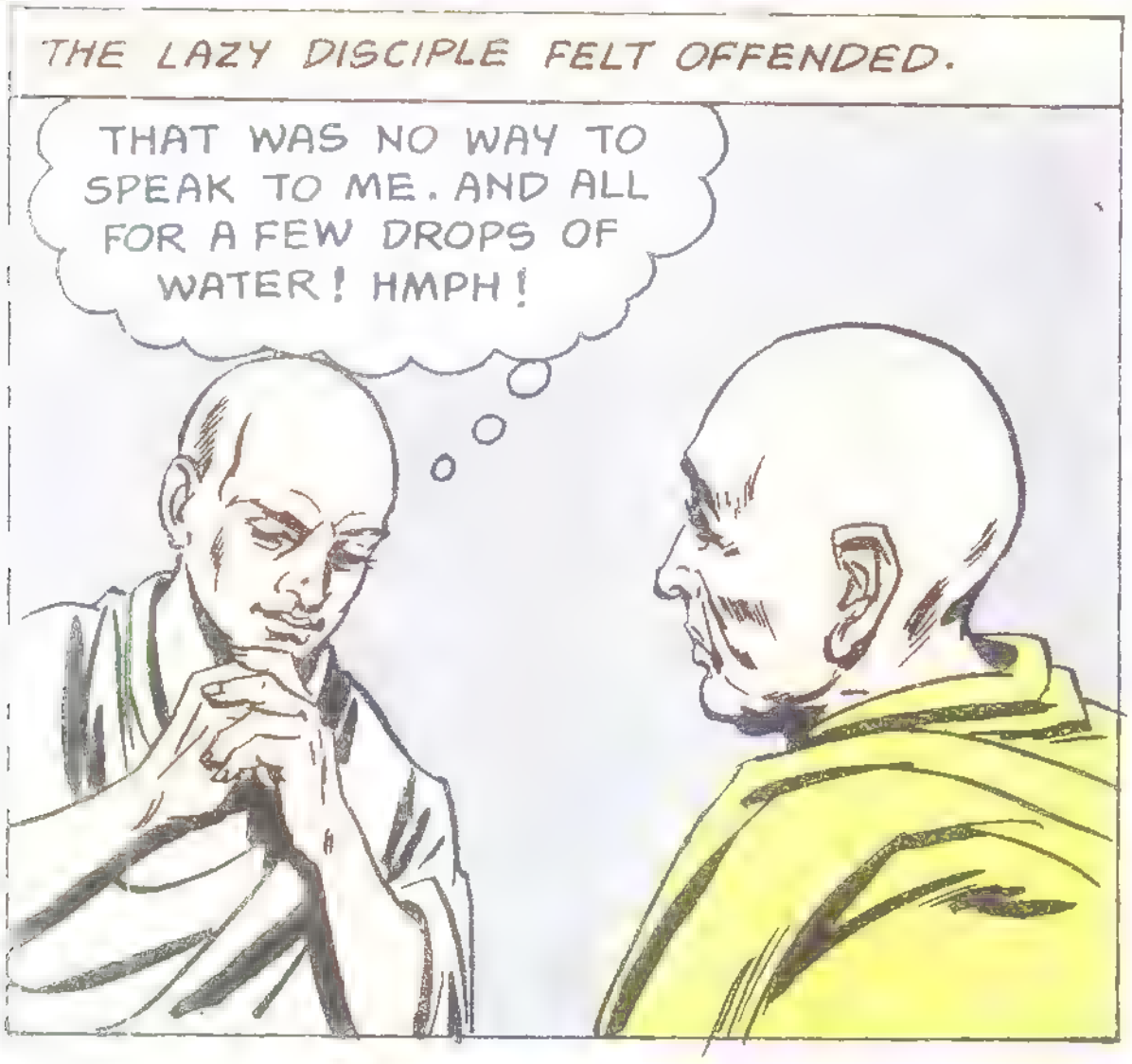

IS THERE NO WATER IN THE VESSEL?

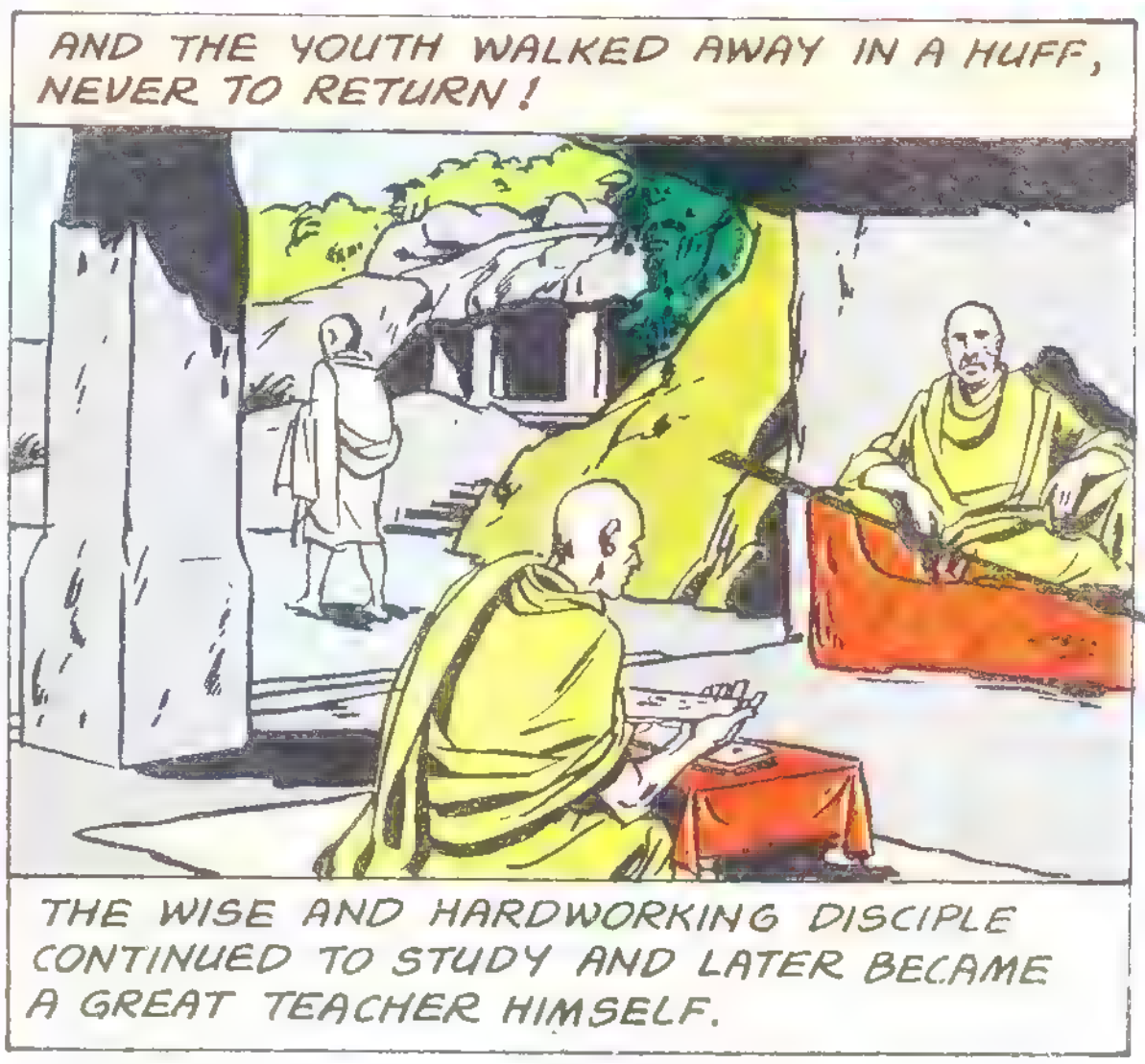

OH, THE RASCAL! I THOUGHT HE HAD...!
WHAT?

JUST THEN—
HERE, MASTER I HAVE BROUGHT THE HOT WATER FOR YOUR WASH.
?


NOW I SEE IT ALL. THIS BOY HAS BEEN DOING ALL THE WORK AND...

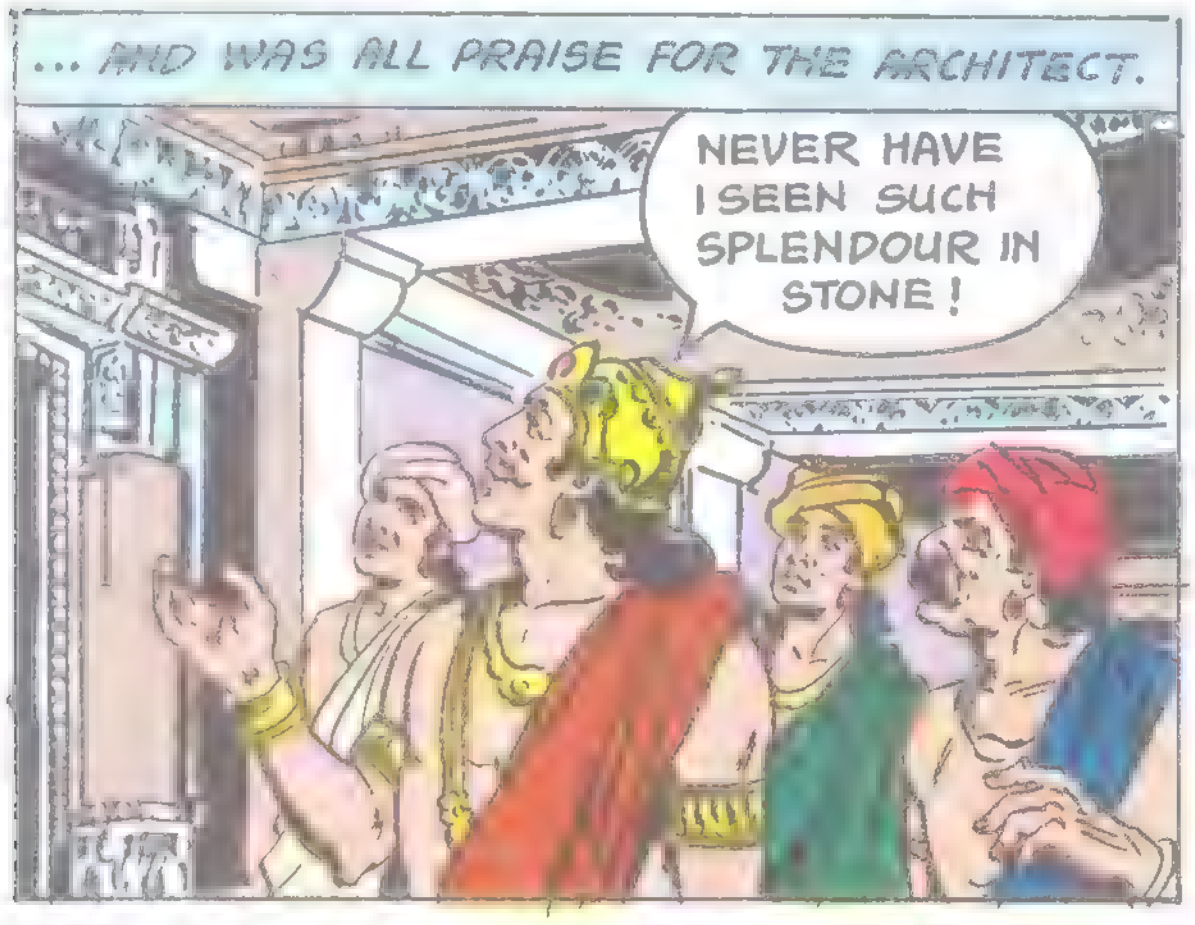

BROTHER, YOU MUST NEVER TAKE CREDIT FOR THE WORK ANOTHER HAS DONE.

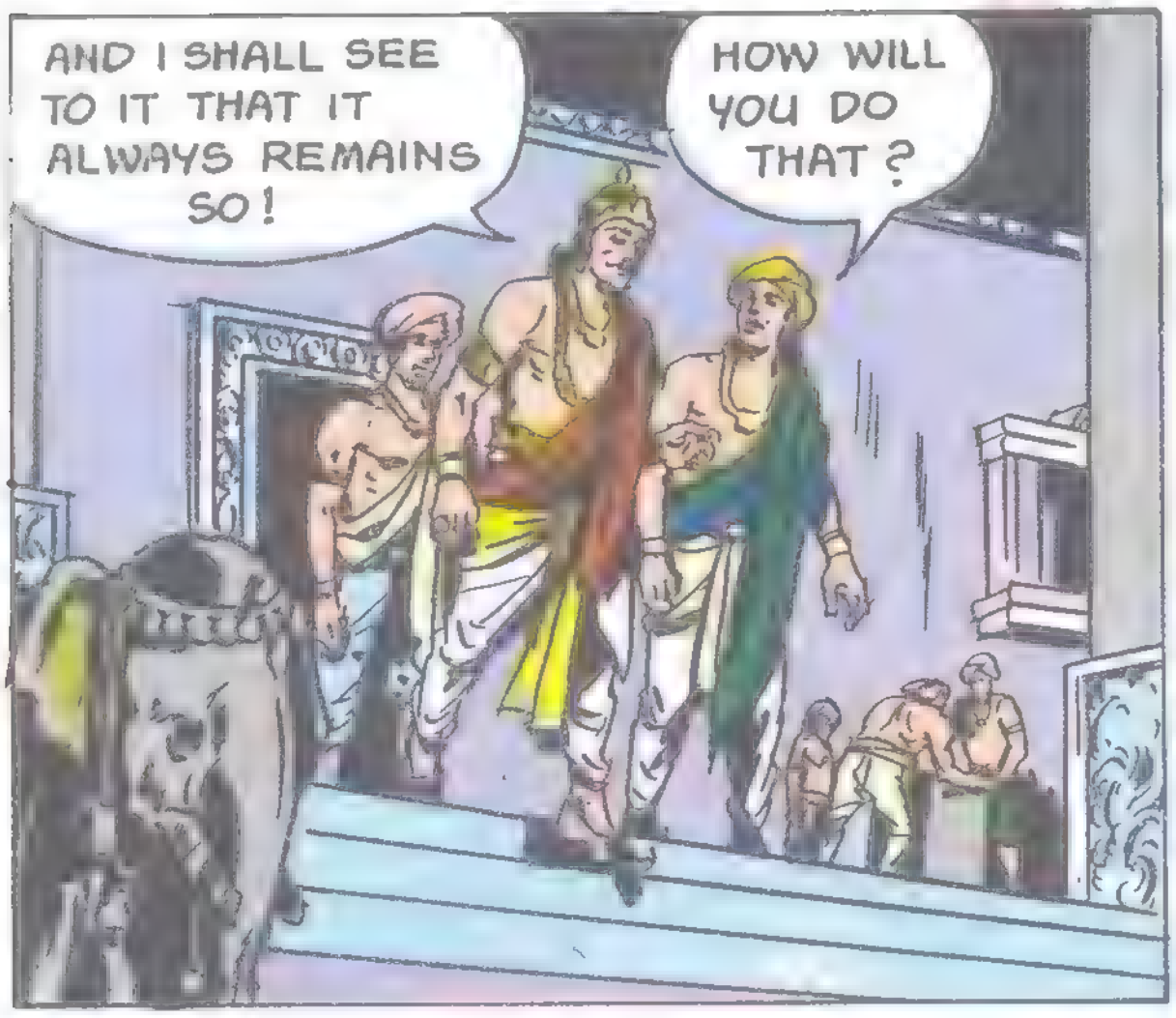

THE LAZY DISCIPLE FELT OFFENDED.
THAT WAS NO WAY TO SPEAK TO ME. AND ALL FOR A FEW DROPS OF WATER! HMPH!

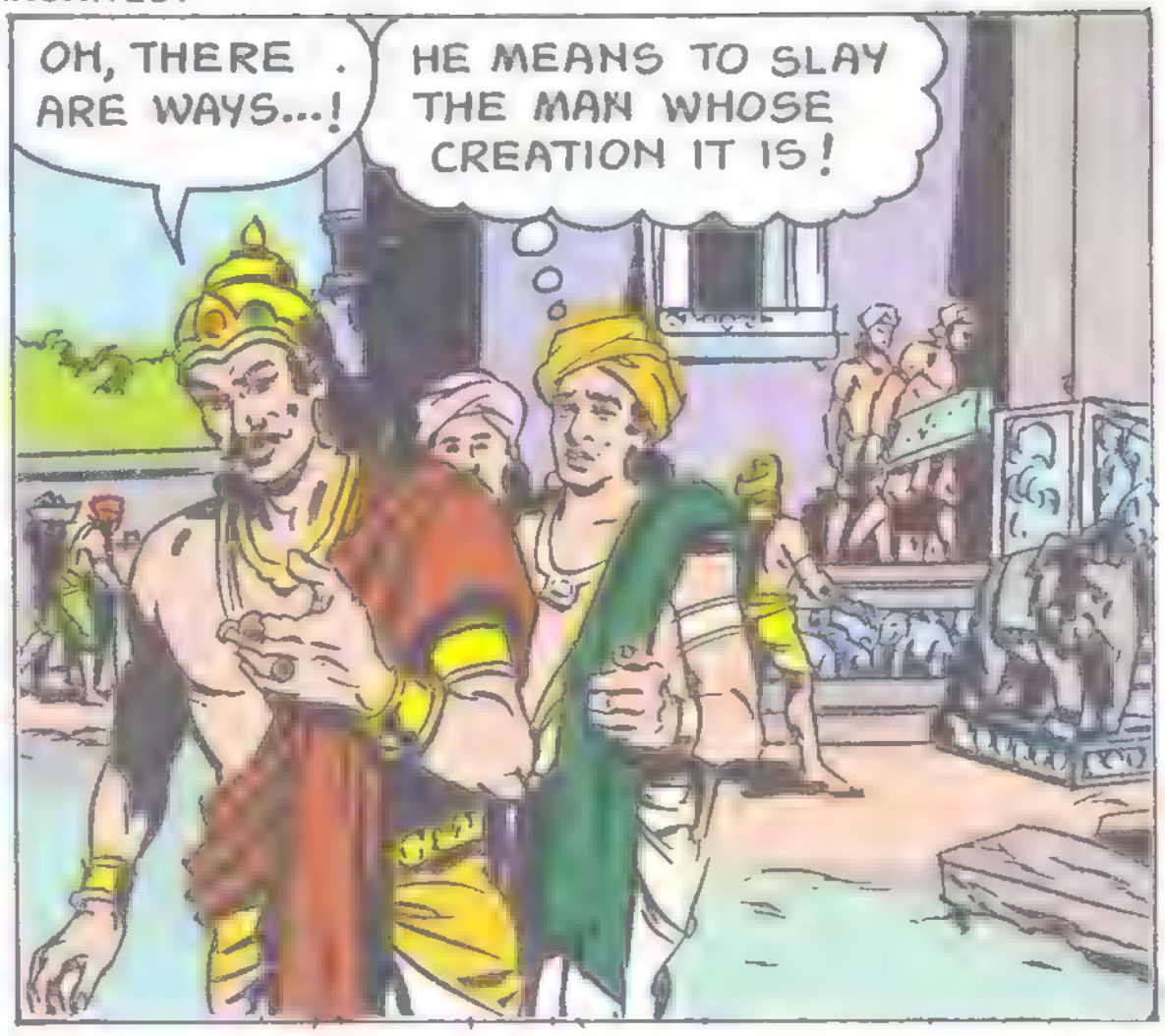

AND THE YOUTH WALKED AWAY IN A HUFF, NEVER TO RETURN!
THE WISE AND HARDWORKING DISCIPLE CONTINUED TO STUDY AND LATER BECAME A GREAT TEACHER HIMSELF.

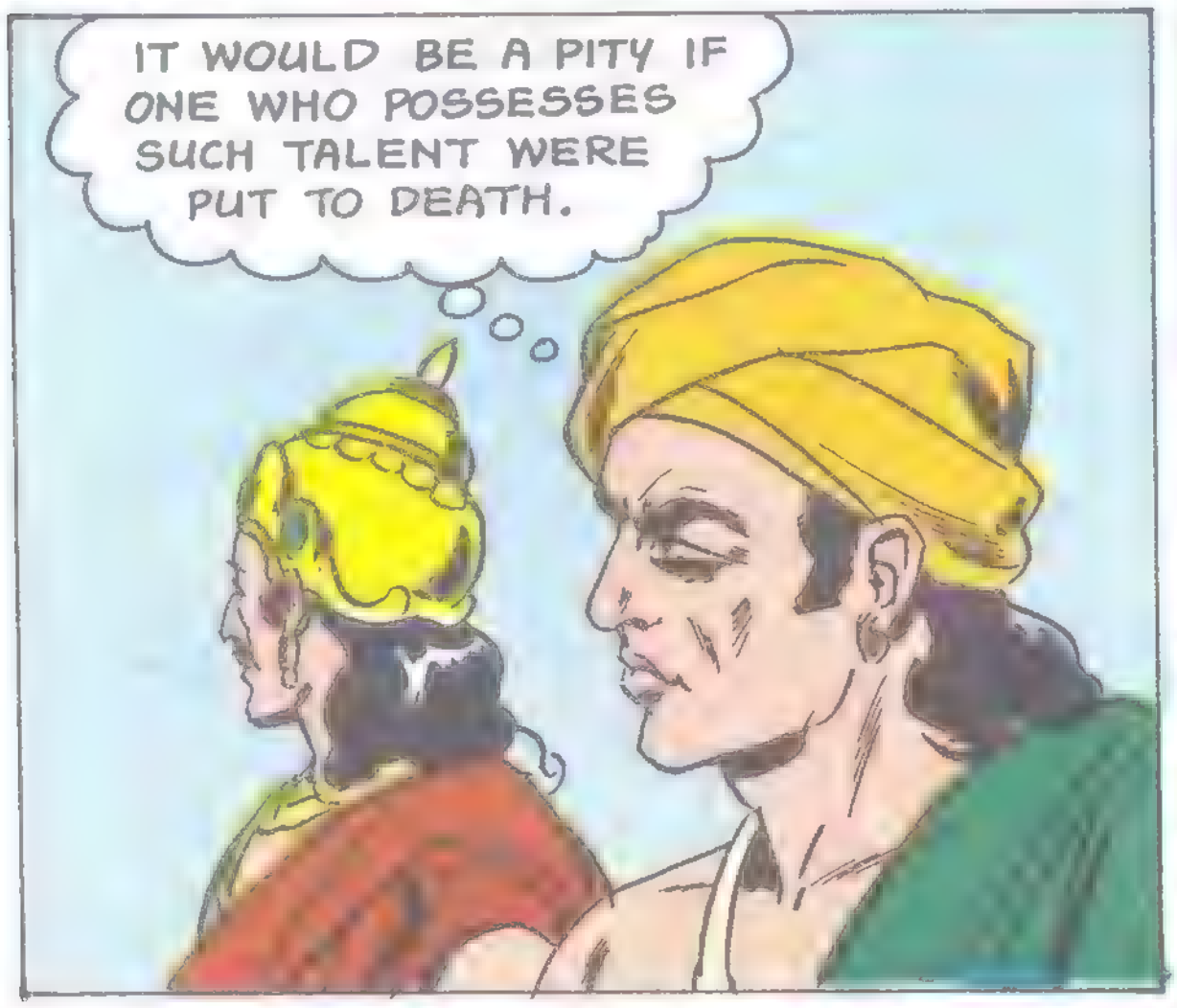
THE GREAT ARCHITECT

PRINCE BODHI WAS ENCHANTED WITH HIS NEW PALACE ...




AND I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT IT ALWAYS REMAINS SO!
HOW WILL YOU DO THAT?


OH, THERE ARE WAYS...!
HE MEANS TO SLAY THE MAN WHOSE CREATION IT IS!


IT WOULD BE A PITY IF ONE WHO POSSESSES SUCH TALENT WERE PUT TO DEATH.

LATER, SANJIKAPUTTA WENT BACK TO THE ARCHITECT.
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR WORK ON THE PALACE?
YES, MY LORD.

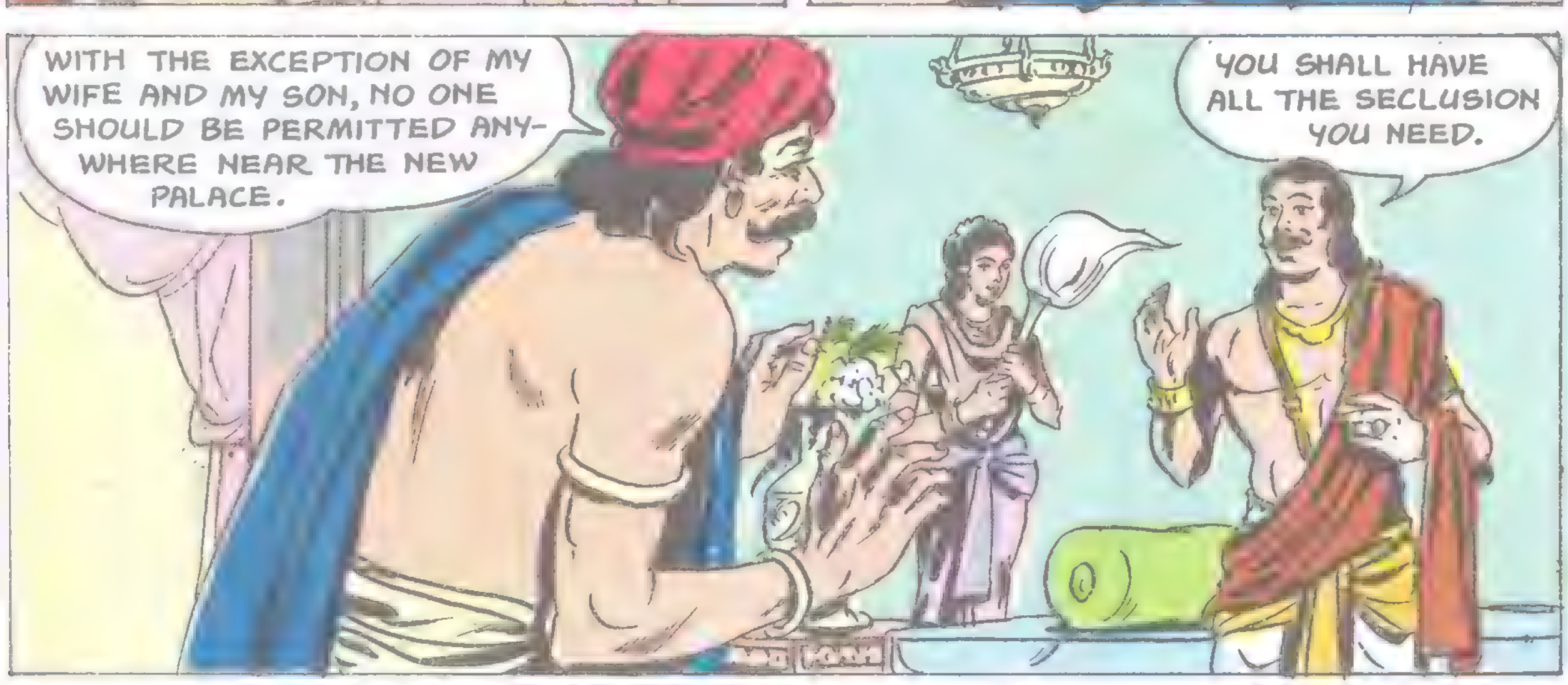
YOUR TALENT IS A SWORD AT YOUR THROAT.

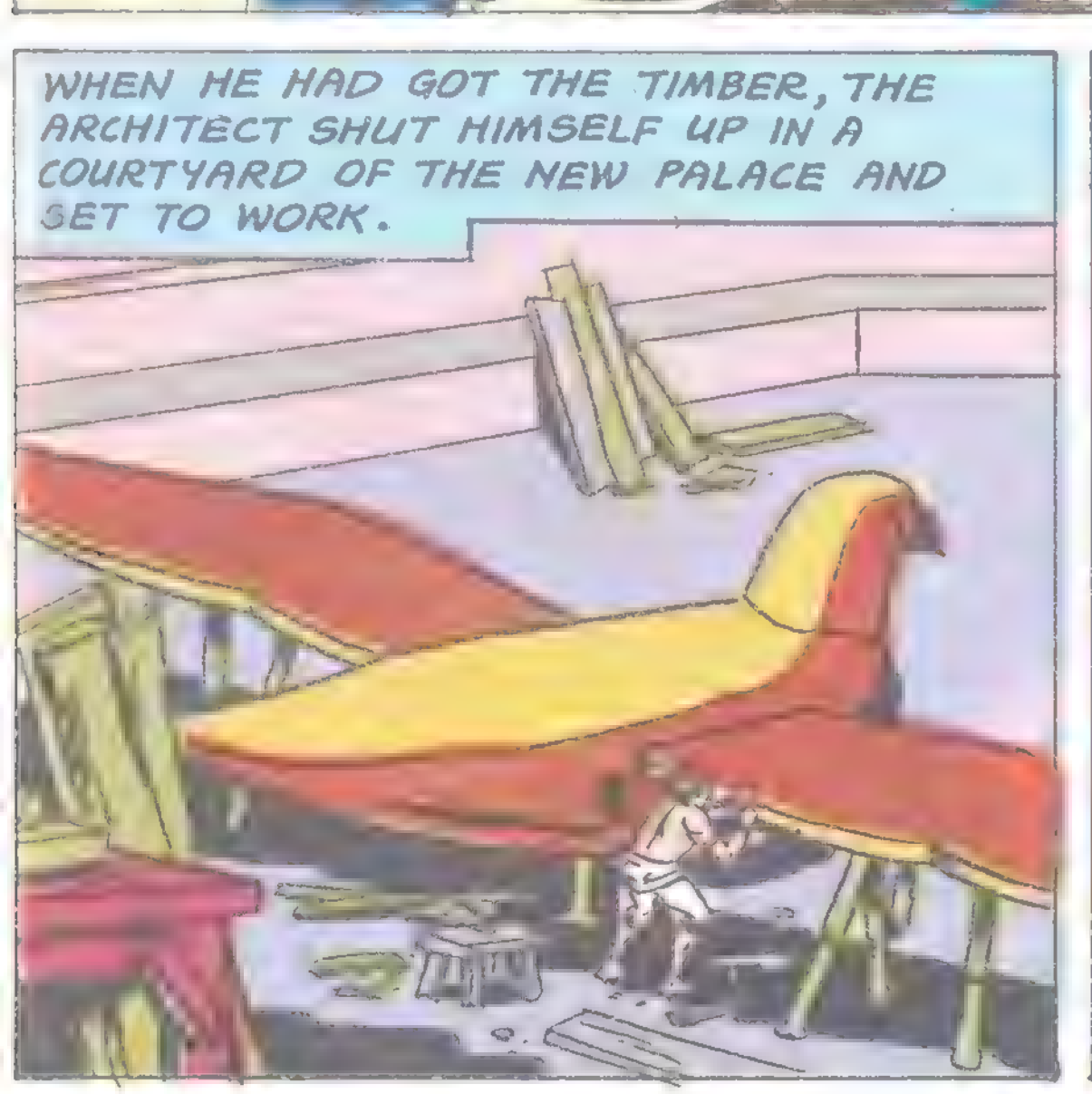
BE WARNED!

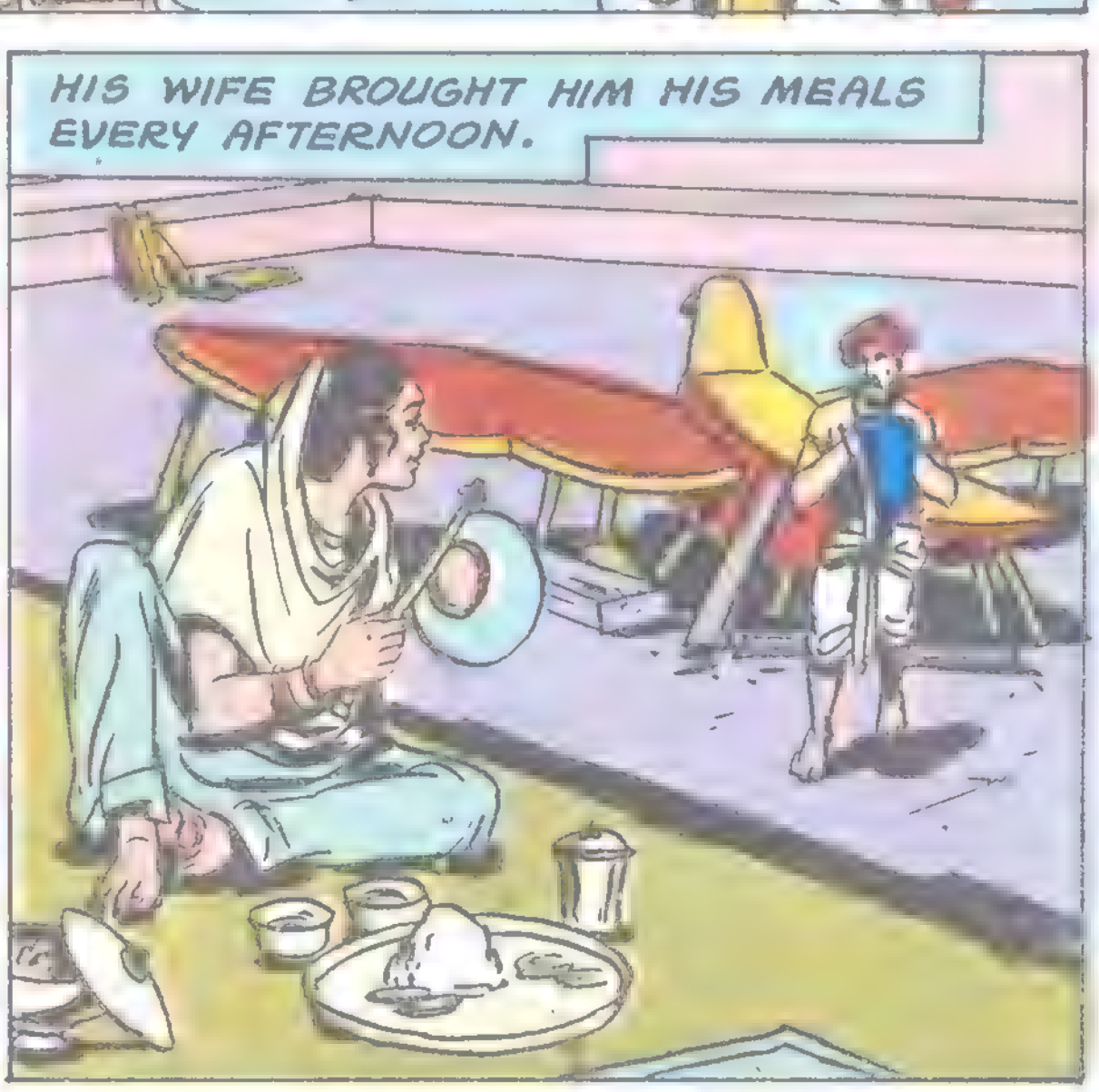
THE NEXT DAY, THE PRINCE SENT FOR THE ARCHITECT.
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR WORK ON OUR PALACE?
NO, YUVARAJ.
WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?
IT IS SOMETHING WHICH YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DREAMT OF.
AH! SOMETHING EXQUISITE, NO DOUBT.
BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED SOME TIMBER.
WHAT SORT OF TIMBER?
SEASONED TIMBER, WITH THE SAP WELL DRIED OUT, YUVARAJ.
I SHALL HAVE IT SENT TO YOU.

ANYTHING ELSE ?
YES, YUVARAJ.

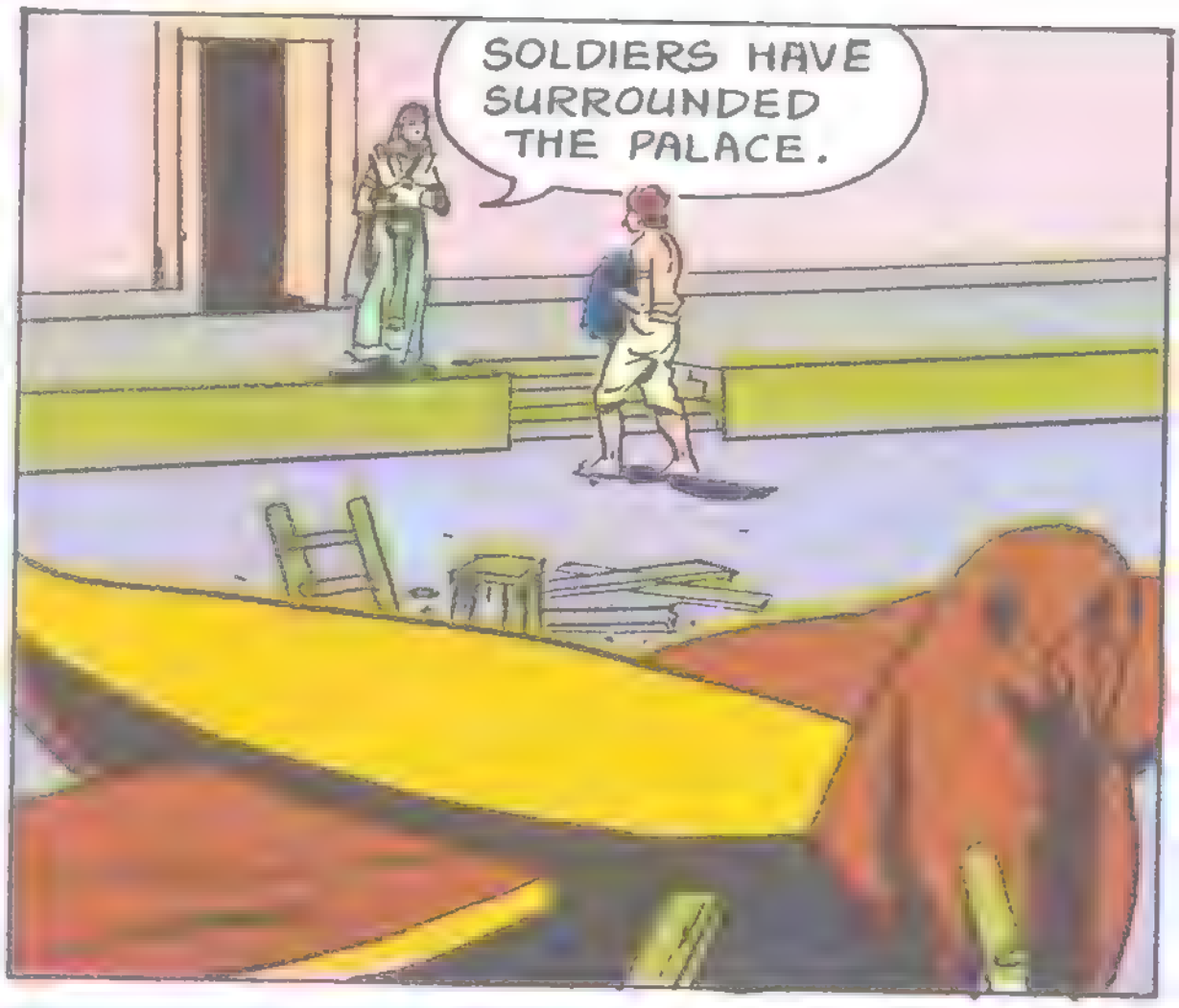
FROM NOW ON, I MUST WORK IN PRIVACY.


WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MY WIFE AND MY SON, NO ONE SHOULD BE PERMITTED ANYWHERE NEAR THE NEW PALACE.
YOU SHALL HAVE ALL THE SECLUSION YOU NEED.


WHEN HE HAD GOT THE TIMBER, THE ARCHITECT SHUT HIMSELF UP IN A COURTYARD OF THE NEW PALACE AND SET TO WORK.


HIS WIFE BROUGHT HIM HIS MEALS EVERY AFTERNOON.

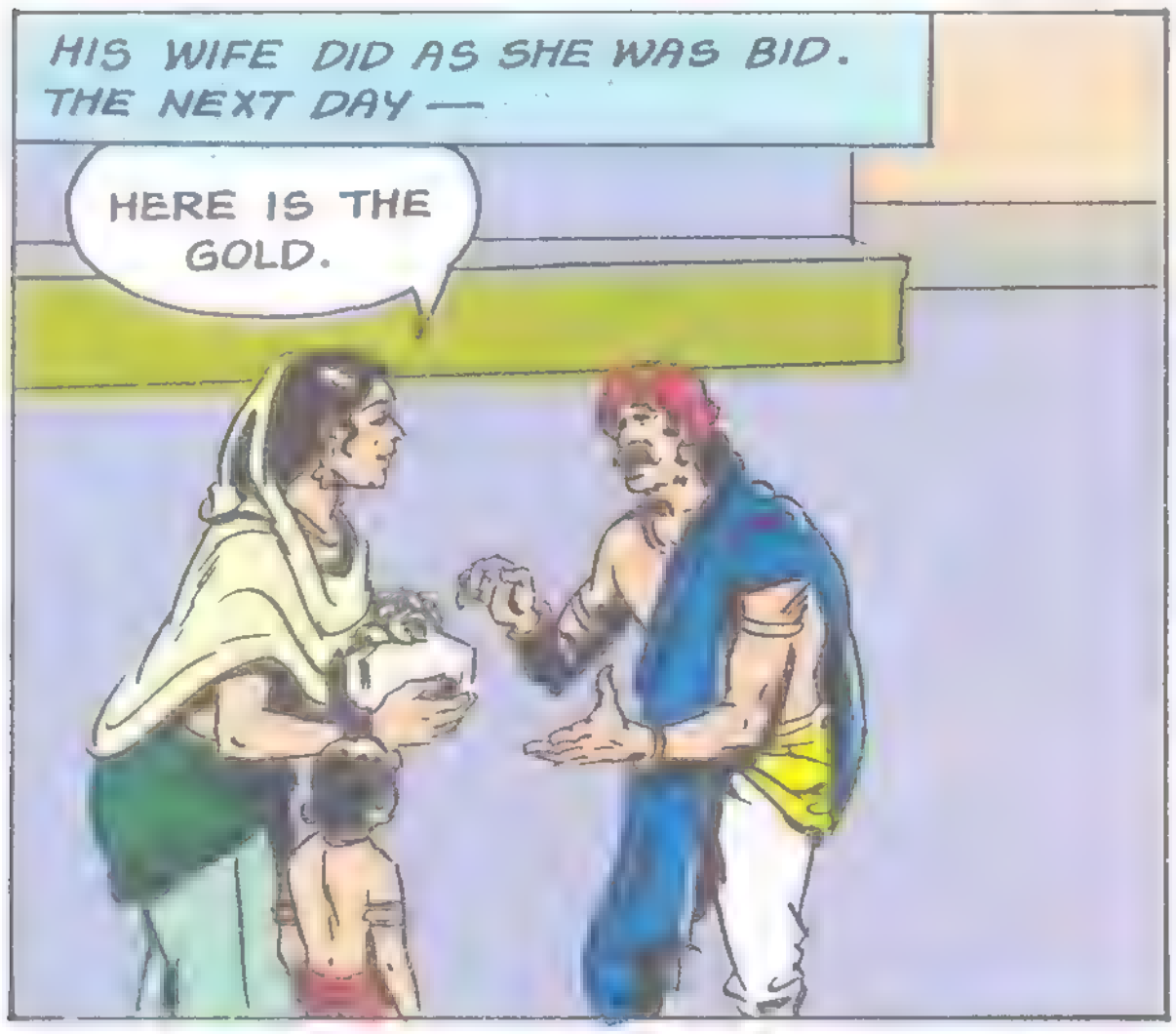
ONE DAY —
WHY IS SHE SO LATE ? AH, THERE SHE IS!


SOLDIERS HAVE SURROUNDED THE PALACE.

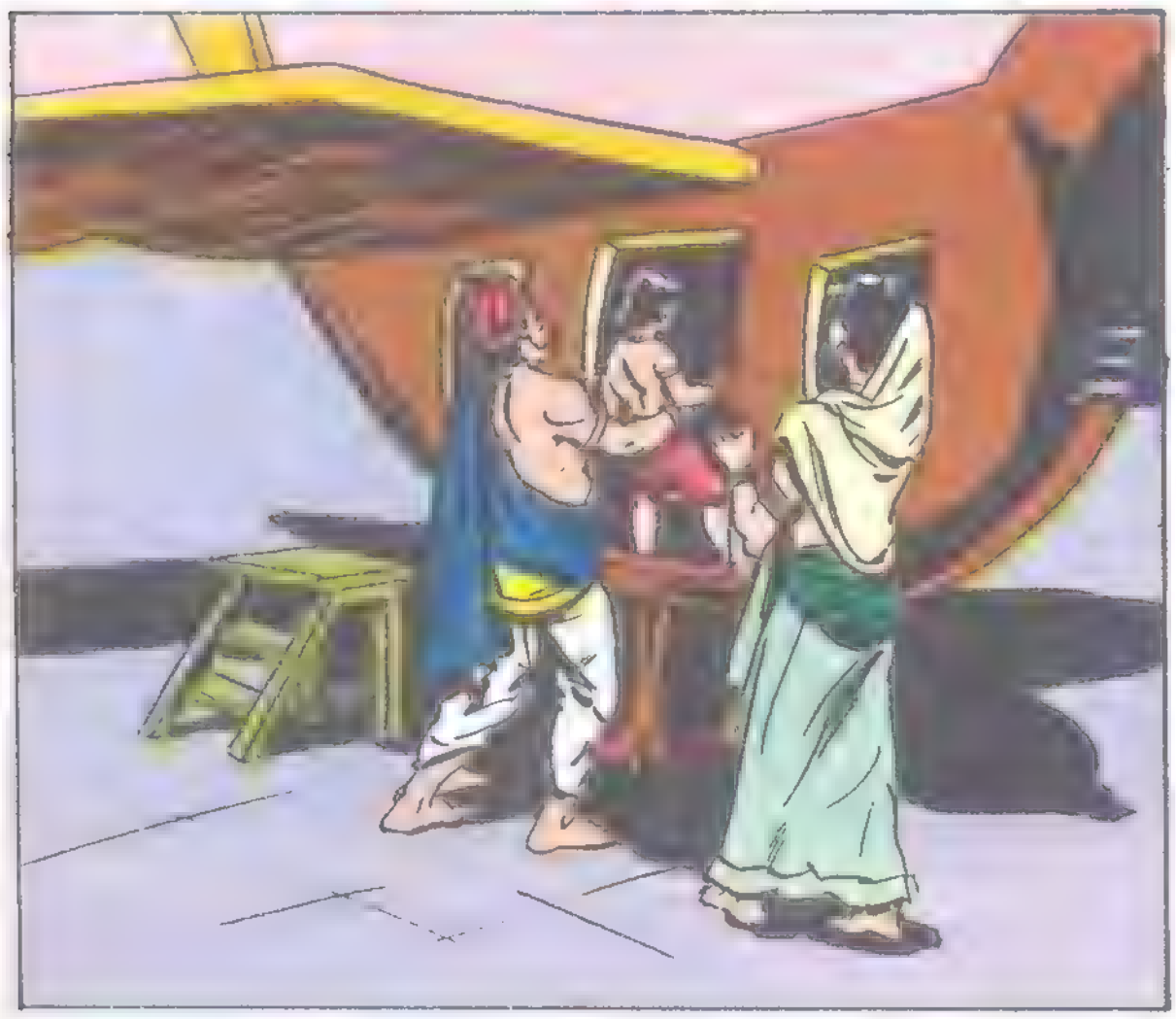
THE PRINCE MUST BE GETTING SUSPICIOUS.

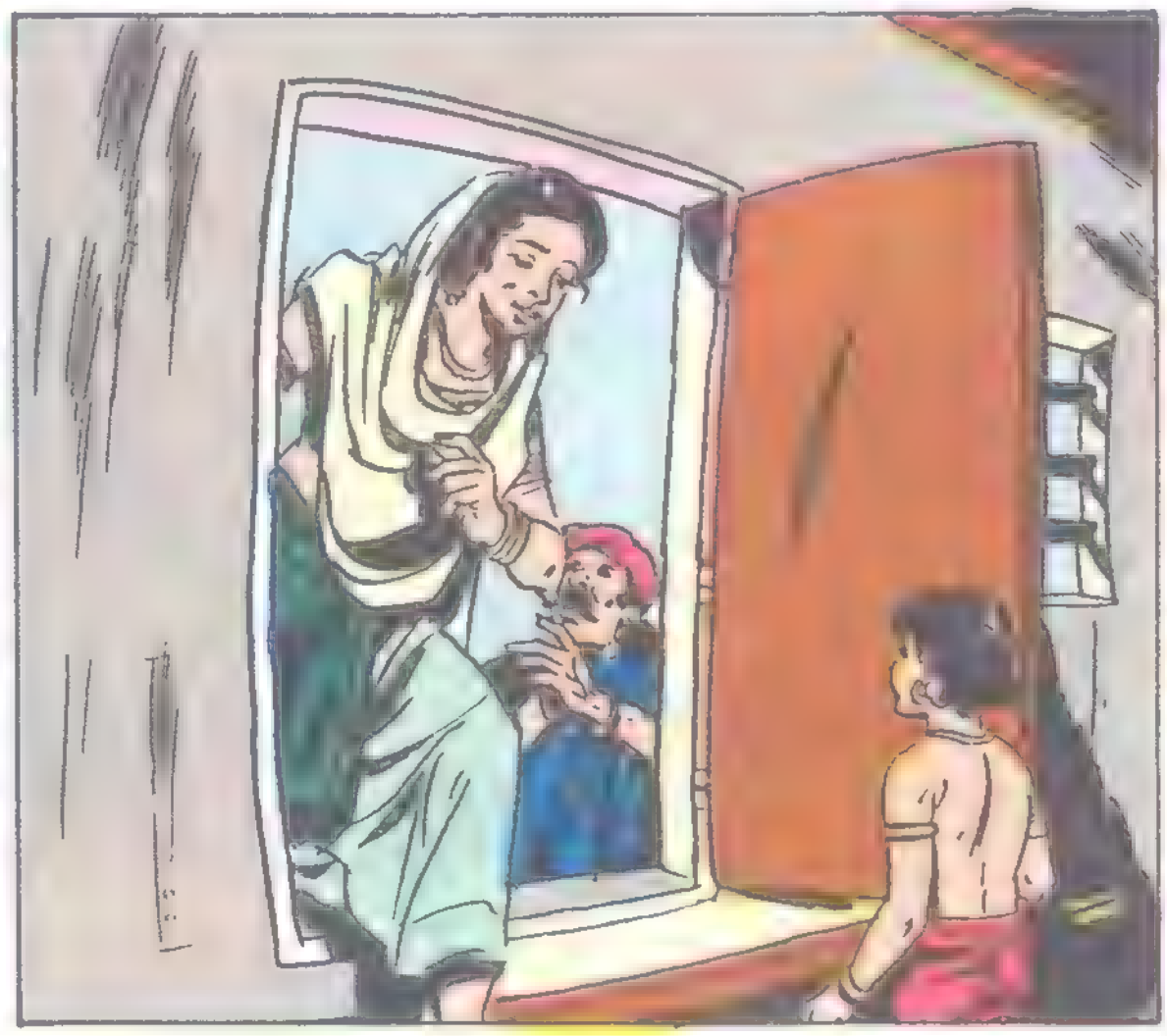
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. GO HOME AND SELL EVERYTHING OF VALUE IN THE HOUSE.

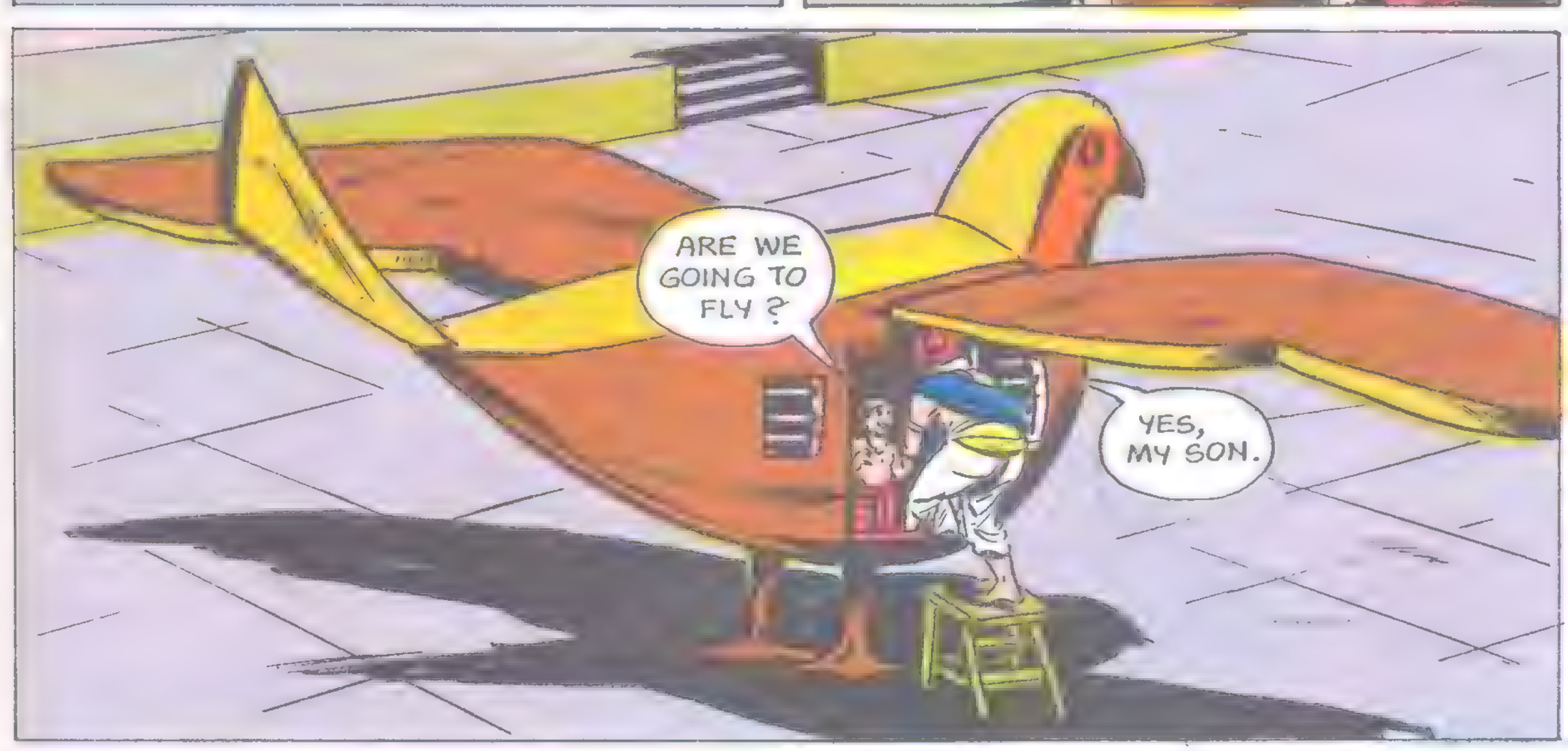
TOMORROW, BRING OUR SON WITH YOU, AND ALSO ALL THE GOLD WE HAVE.

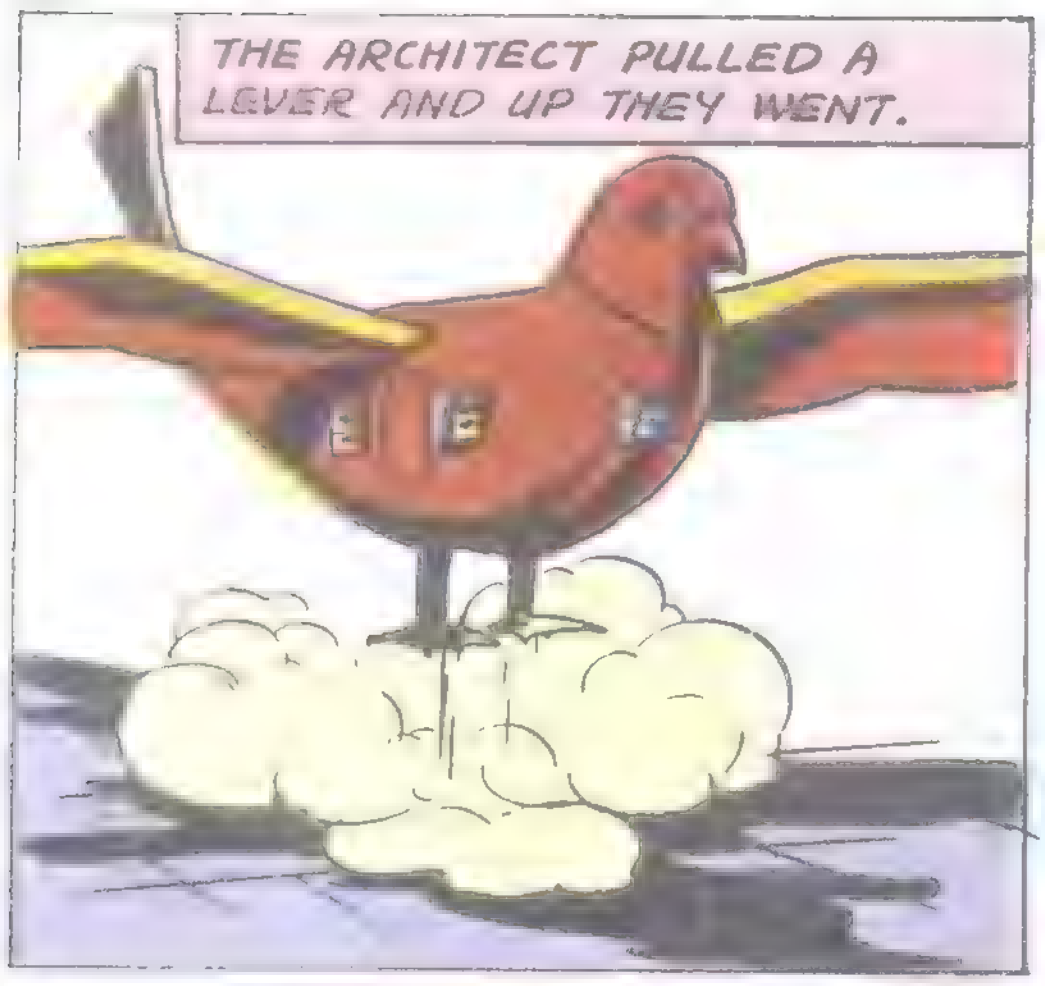

HIS WIFE DID AS SHE WAS BID.
THE NEXT DAY —
HERE IS THE GOLD.

COME ON, LET US GET IN.



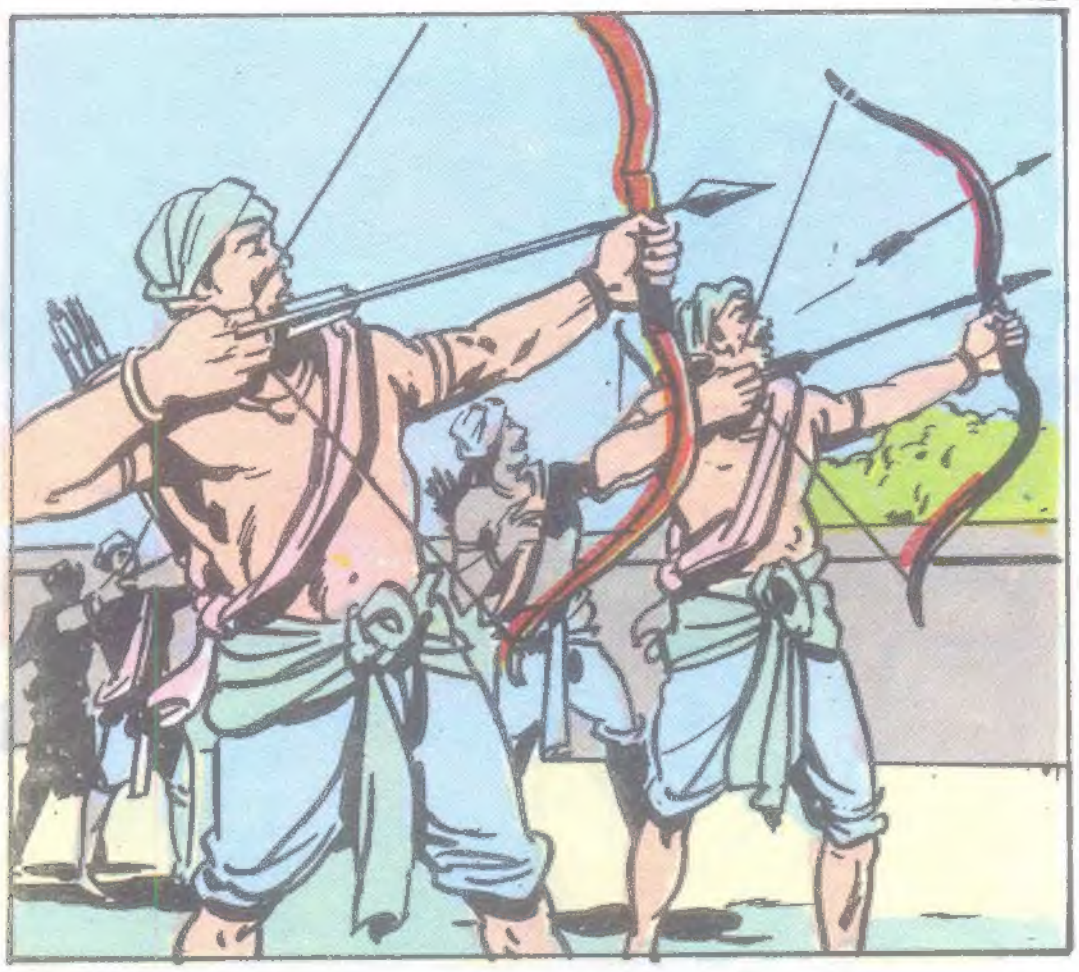



ARE WE GOING TO FLY ?
YES, MY SON.

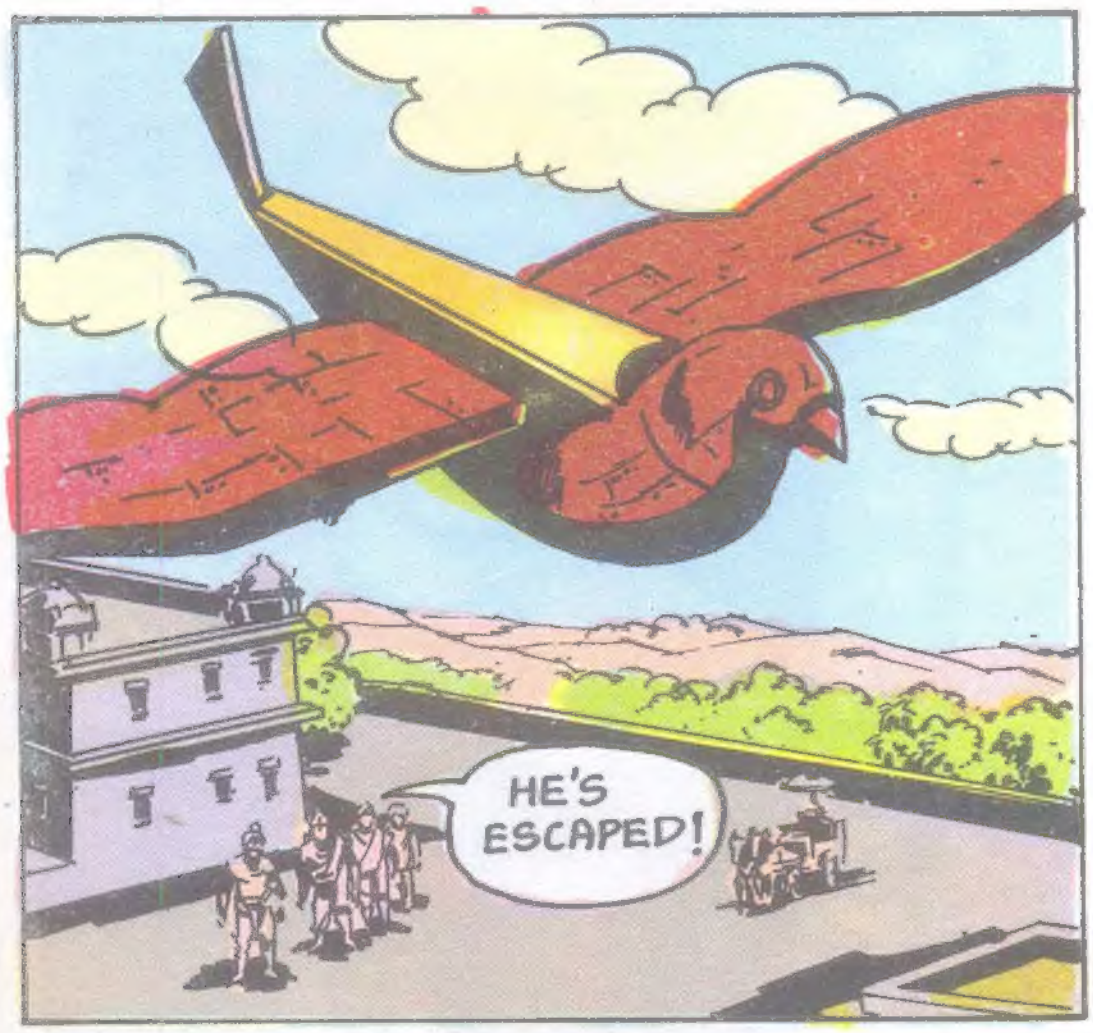

THE ARCHITECT PULLED A LEVER AND UP THEY WENT.

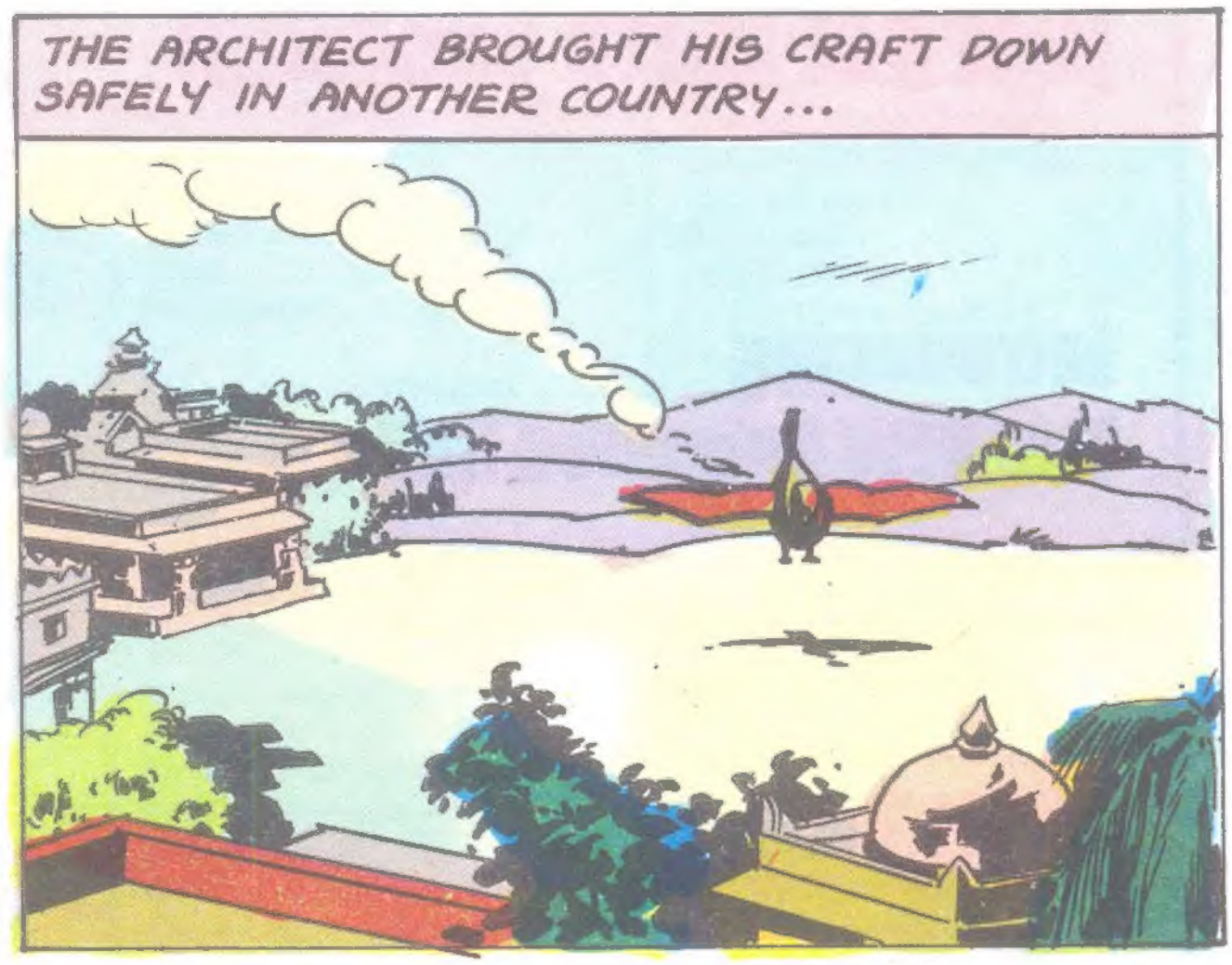
HEY!
?
?
?
?

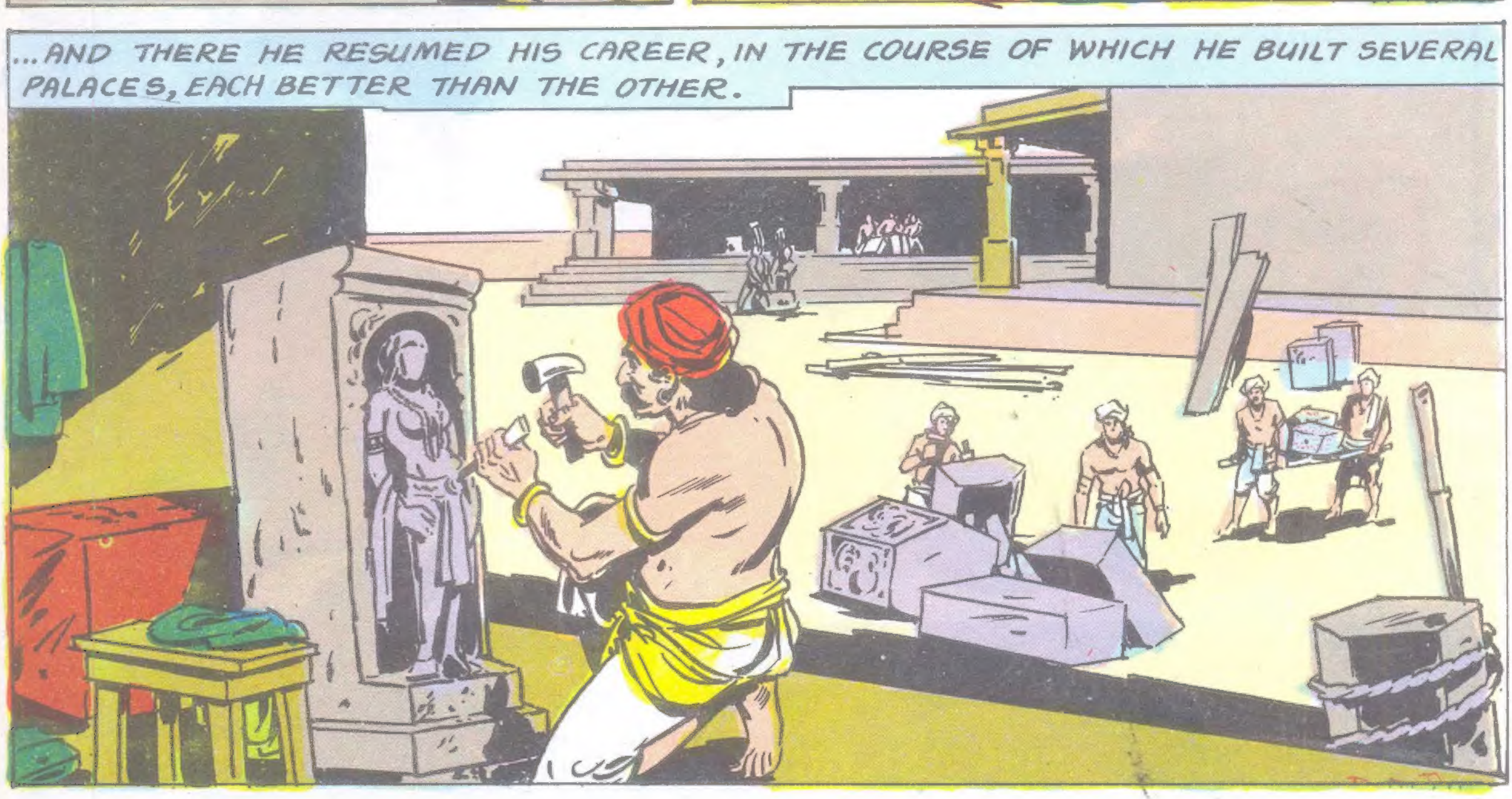
YUVARAJ! THE ARCHITECT IS TRYING TO ESCAPE!
SHOOT HIM DOWN!



THUD


HE'S ESCAPED!


THE ARCHITECT BROUGHT HIS CRAFT DOWN SAFELY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY...


...AND THERE HE RESUMED HIS CAREER, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE BUILT SEVERAL PALACES, EACH BETTER THAN THE OTHER.

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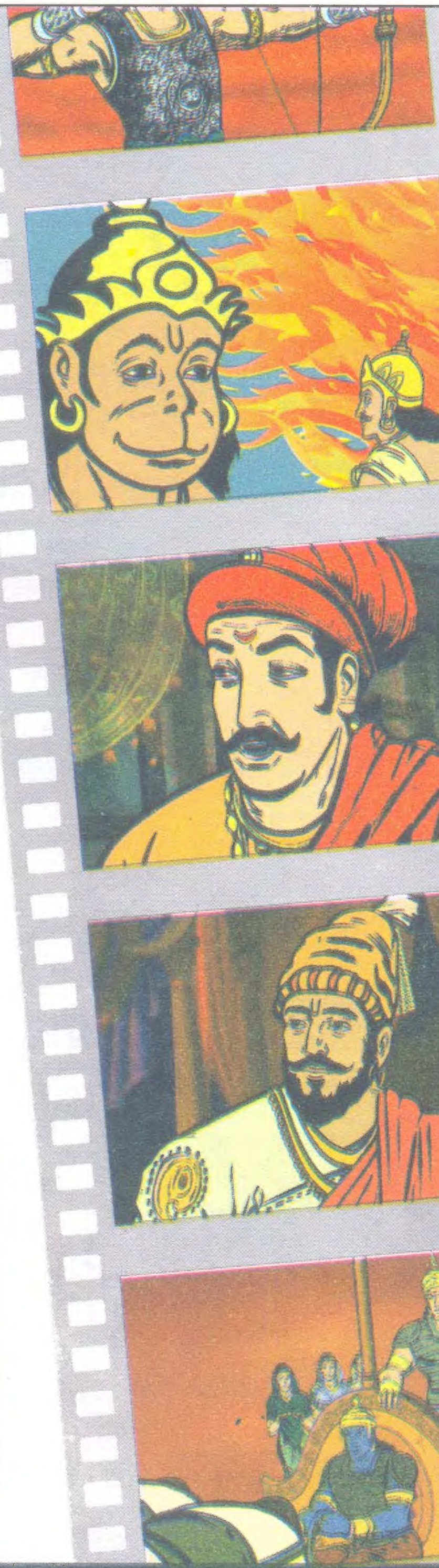

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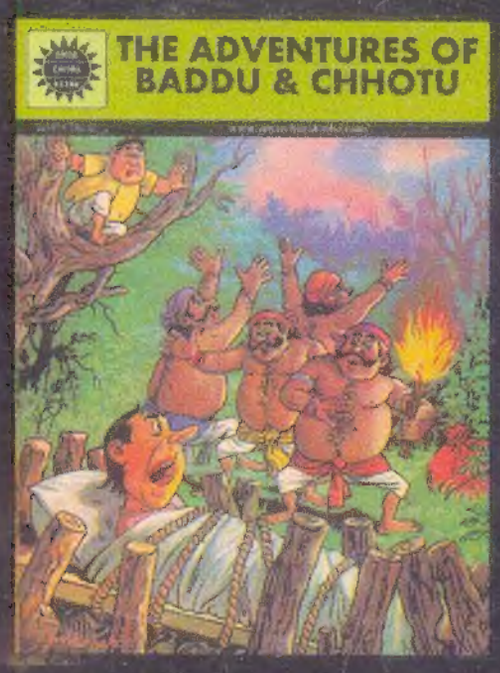
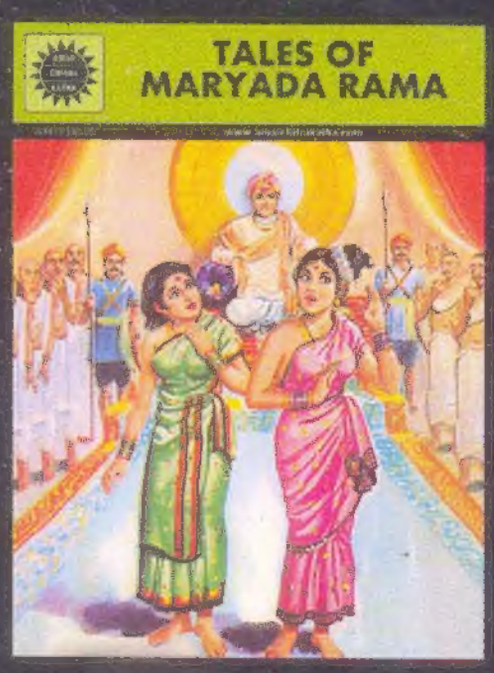
FABLES & HUMOUR

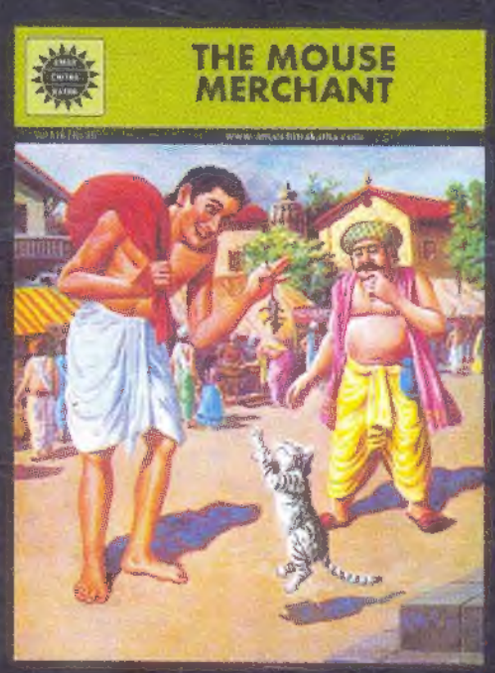
THE FEARLESS BOY

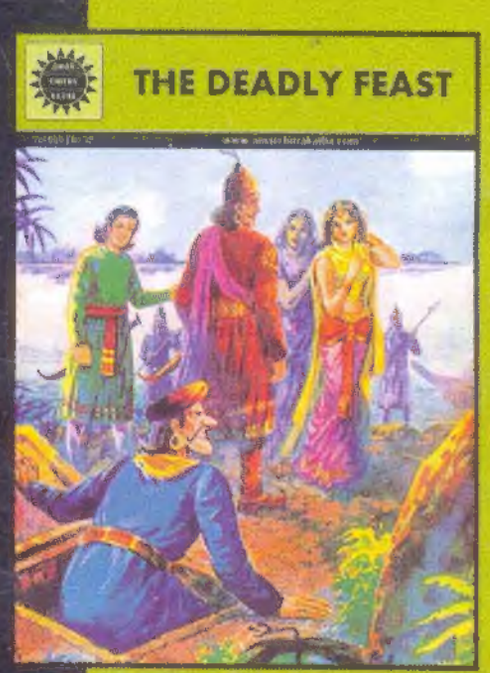
Young Samkicca had learned the secret of happiness. Following Buddha's teachings not only freed him from desire and terror but also miraculously protected him from death! He was not the only one who had this precious knowledge. All those who opted for truth and hard work were blessed with joy, whereas the lazy, the proud and the dishonest were left bewailing their fate.

OTHER ACK FABLES & HUMOUR:









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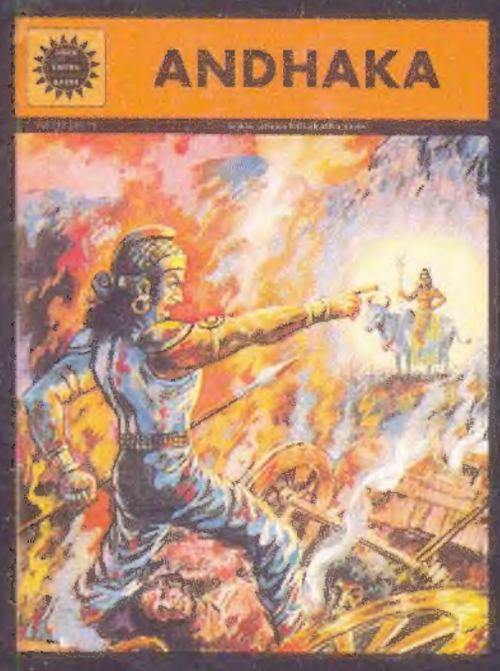
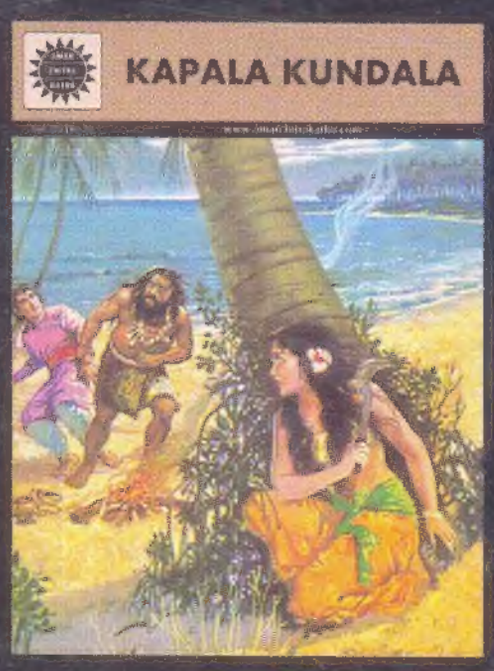
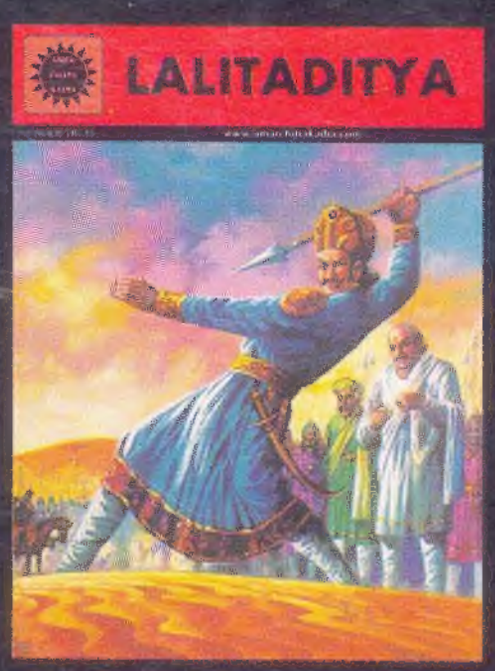


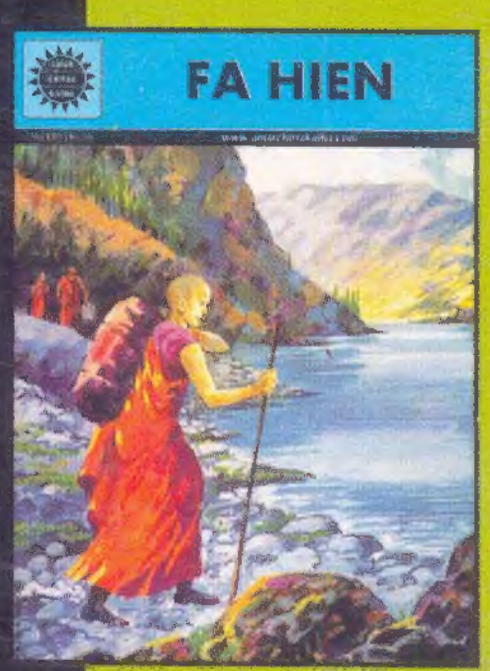
EPICS & MYTHOLOGY



INDIAN CLASSICS



BRAVEHEARTS



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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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